



**LEADER DE L'INNOVATION AGRICOLE EN
AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET DU CENTRE**
LEADING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Strengthening the **resilience of food
systems** in **West** and **Central Africa**.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	6
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	9
2025 HIGHLIGHTS	10
ABOUT CORAF	12
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025	13
AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	15
INCREASED ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING OPTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES, AND MARKETS	33
PROMOTING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	39
STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT	53
HIGHLIGHTS SINCE OUR NARSS IN 2025	61
CORAF PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	67
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND STAFF	71
GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP	71
CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS	73
OUR MEMBERS	75
OUR NETWORK OF EXPERTS	77
STAFF OF THE CORAF EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT	78
DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	81



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAEW	African Agricultural Extension Week
ABEE	Strengthening networks and institutional capacities in plant breeding in West Africa
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AGRHYMET	Regional Centre for Training and Application in Agro-meteorology and Operational Hydrology
AMF	Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi
AOC	West and Central Africa
BMS	Breeding Management System
CAADP-XP4	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, ex-Pillar IV
CEA-FIRST	Europe-Africa Consortium on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation
CEDEAO	Economic Community of West African States
CEEAC	Economic Community of Central African States
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CER	Regional Economic Community
CERAAS	Regional Centre of Excellence for Dry Cereals and Associated Crops
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIFOR-ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CIRAD	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CNRADA	National Centre for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Development of Mauritania
CNS	National Centre of Specialization
CORAF	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
CRE	Regional Centre of Excellence
CREVAOS	West African Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties
CRS	Regional Centre of Specialization
CRSPAOS	West Africa and Sahel Regional Seed and Plant Committee
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

CSIR-CRI	Crop Research Institute of CSIR
CSIR-SARI	Savannah Agricultural Research Institute of CSIR
CST	Scientific and Technical Committee
DKH	Digital Knowledge Hub
ECOCERT	Organic Agriculture Certification Body
ECOWAP	Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States
FAW	Fall Armyworm
FCFA	CFA Franc
FNSSA	Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
FSRP/PRSA	Food System Resilience Program
GIP	Integrated Landscape Management
GIRAV	Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chains Development Project
HLPD	High Level Policy Dialogue
IAR4D	Integrated Agricultural Research for Development
IAV	Innovation and Varietal Improvement
IVAO	Innovation and Varietal Improvement in West Africa
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INRA	National Institute of Agricultural Research
IRA	Institute for Advanced Research
IRAD	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
IRC	Cotton Research Institute
ISRA	Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Impact Assessment
MITA	Market for Agricultural Innovations and Technologies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium
NSS	National Seed Secretary
ODD	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
ONG	Non-Governmental Organization

ONPV	National Plant Protection Organizations
OSR	Sub-Regional Organization
PAC	Central Africa Common Agricultural Policy
PDDAA	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
PGPR	Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria
PI	Innovation Platforms
PIC	Community Immersion Hubs
PICSA	Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture
PRSA	Food System Resilience Program
PTA	Agricultural Technology Parks
PTIA	Agricultural Technology and Innovation Parks
R&D	Research and Development
RADIUS	RADiUS Project, Network in Agroecology to Promote the Sustainability of Food Systems in West and Central Africa
RESAPAC	Network of Participatory and Certified Agri-Food Systems
RESCAR-AOC	Network of Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services of West and Central Africa
RESOPP	Network of Farmers' and Pastoralists' Organizations of Senegal
RMRN	Regional Multi-Stakeholder Research Network
RTK	Real-Time Kinematic, precision geospatial positioning technology
SLARI	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
SNRA	National Agricultural Research Systems
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
T&I	Technologies and Innovations
TARSPRO	Agricultural Technologies and Innovations to Strengthen the Resilience of Production Systems and Family Farms in West and Central Africa
UCAD	Cheikh Anta Diop University
UE	European Union
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UFHB	Félix Houphouët-Boigny University
UJKZ	Joseph Ki-Zerbo University
VCI	Climate-Smart Villages
YPARD	Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CORAF has made significant progress in scaling up agricultural technologies and improved management practices in West and Central Africa.

In 2025, assets and services related to agriculture reached out to over **3,393,442** people in our region, made possible by the community of agricultural research and development that are working across the region. Efforts to develop and scale up new agricultural technologies and innovations continued this year. They have already benefited nearly **1,012,686** farmers (35%), leading to a sustainable transformation of family farms. Youth are at the heart of this transformation, as they make up 30% of the direct beneficiaries, reflecting the growing interest among young people in agriculture and agribusiness. Indeed, when agricultural innovation is inclusive along the value chains, it improves yields—thereby increasing production—but, more importantly, it sustainably improves people’s living conditions. Piloting integrated landscape management approaches has enabled the restoration and reclamation of 350,000 hectares of degraded land.

Behind these figures lie tangible realities: more productive farms, regenerated soils, more resilient communities, and a younger generation rediscovering agriculture as a sector of opportunity.

The year 2025 also saw the consolidation of the Market for Agricultural Innovations and Technologies (MITA), notably with the effective participation and support of the highest authorities in Mali and

Ministers from eight West and Central African countries for the agricultural innovation system and the transformation of food systems championed by CORAF and its partners. Furthermore, this enabled the provision of 33 soil management technologies that are currently being scaled up. For example, in Senegal, 13 technologies—nine of which have been adopted by the 1,300 producers supported by participants in MITA. With this, MITA has singled out as a strategic platform for valorization and networking, which demonstrates our ability to bring together research, users, and decision-makers.

One message stands out clearly: the solutions to feed West and Central Africa and drive economic growth exist. But they require a relevant, effective innovation system that is constantly striving for excellence. Our collective responsibility now is to scale these solutions up while making sure that every producer has access—at the right time—to the right innovation and all the support they need.

Our deepest gratitude is extended to the governments of our 23 member National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), to NARS stakeholders, to our technical and financial partners, and to the teams at the Executive Secretariat for their remarkable and ongoing commitment. Together, we have the means to further strengthen the resilience of our food systems, a guarantee of sustainable economic growth in our region. Thank you for your trust and unwavering support.



Dr Kalifa TRAORE
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



Dr Moumini SAVADOGO
Executive Director

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, CORAF has continued to implement its 2018–2027 Strategic Plan through an operational portfolio of 15 active programs and projects, representing a regional strategic investment of \$11.7 million in five priority domains for West and Central Africa. This momentum demonstrates CORAF’s ongoing commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity, food security, and the resilience of agri-food systems in West and Central Africa.

PID on Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security forms the foundation of CORAF’s interventions. In 2025, 776 technologies and innovations have been disseminated at the regional level, covering all priority value chains, notably aquaculture, bananas, wheat, cereals and intercrops, livestock, fruits and vegetables, maize, tuber crops, and rice. Of these, 165 were newly introduced and adopted by 1,012,686 farmers (35%), 30% of whom were young people, thereby reaching more than 168,781 family farms and 101,195 hectares.

These efforts contributed to an overall increase in agricultural productivity by +7.3% compared to the previous season and +10.4% compared to the average of the last five years for cereals; +3.2% annually and +8.3% compared to the five-year average for tubers (RPCA, 2025–2026), thereby significantly improving regional food and nutritional security.

For PID on strengthening Policies, Institutions, Markets, and Trade, the regional consultative frameworks, such as the Regional Seeds and Seedling Committee for West Africa and the Sahel (CRSPAOS) and the Regional Catalog of Plant Species and Varieties of West Africa (CREVAOS), have their operations strengthened, which has contributed to policy harmonization and regional integration.

In 2025, CORAF has further strengthened its contribution to the implementation of the ECOWAP through active participation in the thematic steering committees and in the regional policy review process launched in May 2025. CORAF also supported the Regional Disease Outbreak and Pest Preparedness and Response Plan in West and Central Africa, contributing to strengthening the resilience of West African agricultural systems. Through its regional advocacy efforts, CORAF has amplified the voice of the National Agricultural Research Services (NARSs) before governments and major regional and international forums (AA AfDB, AFSF, SARA), while promoting increased funding being allocated to agricultural research and innovation.

PID on Gender, Youth, and Social Equity remains a cross-cutting priority in CORAF's programs. In 2025, 2,167 people benefited from capacity building in various fields. Women's participation is particularly notable in the field of agricultural research, with 394 female researchers involved, representing 99% of the target. Overall, 35% of the beneficiaries of the interventions are women, reflecting an effective consideration of inclusion in the actions implemented.

On Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Management, 109 Innovation Platforms for cereals (rice, maize, and wheat), vegetable crops (onions and tomatoes), and livestock (small ruminants and poultry) has been operational in 2025, facilitating dialog among researchers, producers, decision-makers, and the private sector. In addition, 36 knowledge products have been generated, and significant progress has been made in the development of databases and digital platforms.



Groundnut field, Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA)

ABOUT CORAF

CORAF is an international non-profit association bringing together the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARSs) of 23 countries, covering more than 40% of the African population, making it the largest sub-regional research organization in African.

Since its inception, CORAF has worked closely with its members—namely the National Agricultural Research Services (NARSs)—which include public agricultural research institutes, universities, farmers’ organizations, extension services, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders in agricultural development. It also relies on regional centers of excellence to provide solutions to cross-cutting, cross-border, and regional agricultural challenges.

CORAF is also recognized as the technical arm of the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS, CEMAC) for the implementation of their priority programs in agricultural research.

CORAF’s mission is to improve livelihoods in West and Central Africa through sustainable increases in agricultural production and productivity and to promote competitiveness and market access.

To this end, CORAF promotes agricultural development in West and Central Africa by achieving its specific objective through the delivery of four results, namely:

Result 1

The use of appropriate technologies and innovations in West and Central Africa is on the rise.



Result 2

Market access and the scaling up of technologies based on informed decision-making are improved.



Result 3

Institutional and human capacities are being strengthened in agricultural research for development.



Result 4

The target groups’ demand for agricultural knowledge is facilitated and met.



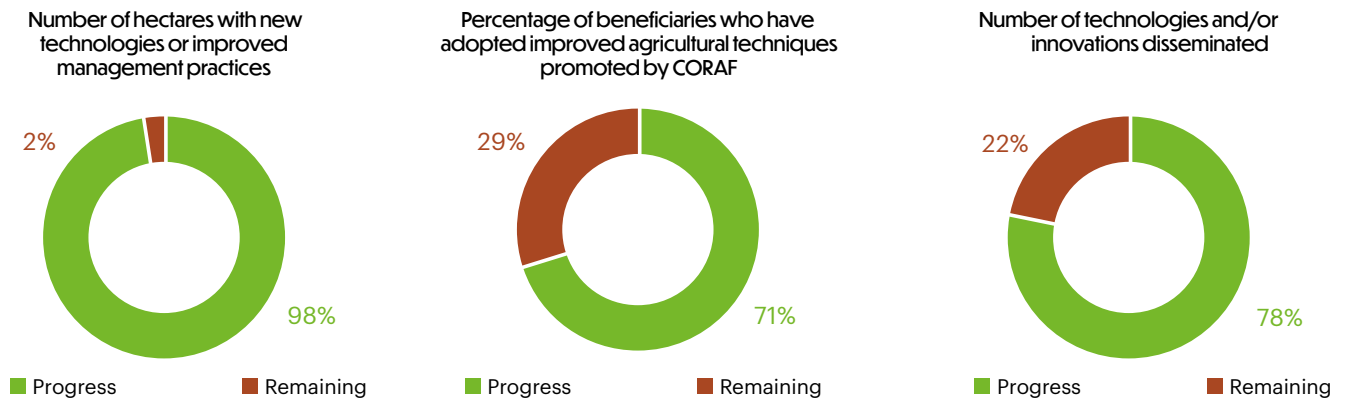
CORAF takes a regional approach to addressing the challenges of agricultural research and development through the active participation of various stakeholders. This approach allows each stakeholder to leverage their comparative advantages to build joint solutions that can be replicated across national borders. It thus helps minimize duplication of efforts and embed regionalization into standard practices.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

Significant advances have been made towards achieving the 2027 strategic targets through the implementation of the 2023-2026 Operational Plan of CORAF. The year 2025 witnessed noteworthy progress across all of CORAF's priority intervention domains.

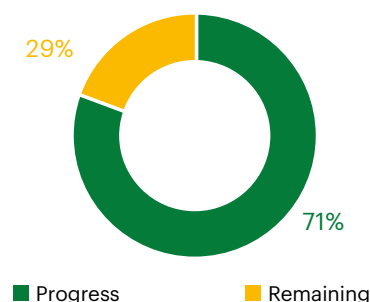
The results framework matrix for the 2023–2027 strategic plan, based on 2025 data, is as follows:

RESULT 1: INCREASED USE OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



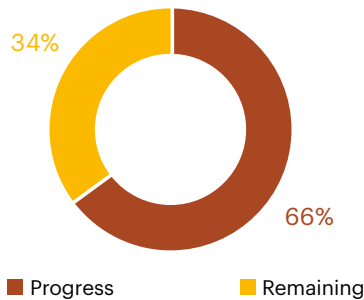
RESULT 2: INCREASED ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING OPTIONS FOR POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND MARKETS

Number of policy options and regulations at various stages of development and implementation (i-analyzed, ii-drafted and submitted to stakeholders for consultation, iii-submitted for formal adoption (legislation/decrees), iv-approved, v-approved and implemented)?

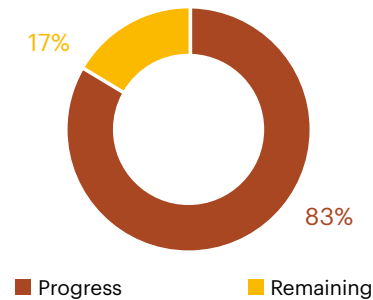


RESULT 3 : STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

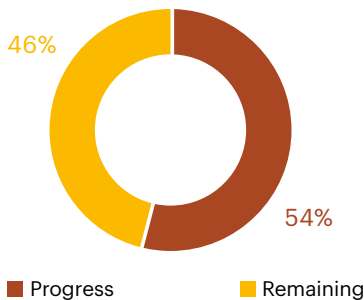
Share of total R&D expenditure in agricultural value added in WCA



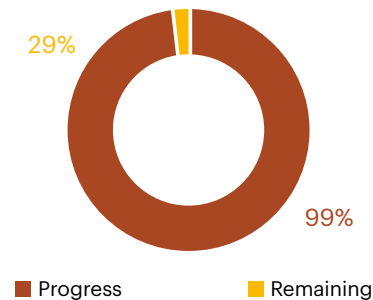
Organizational capacity score of agricultural research institutions (NCOS, RCoS, and RCoE) in WCA



Number of people trained (broken down by type of training—short-, medium-, and long-term—by gender, and by age group)

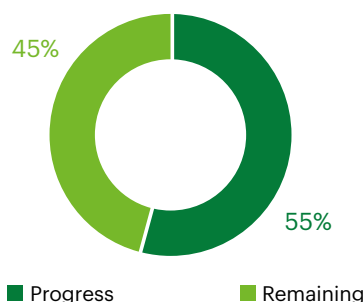


Number of women participating in agricultural research in WCA

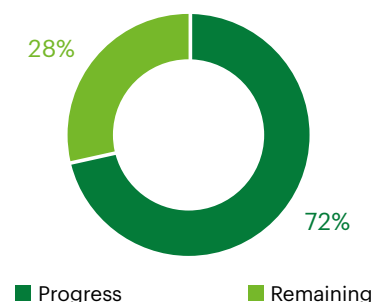


RESULT 4 : DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE FROM TARGET CLIENTS IS FACILITATED AND MET

Number of functional innovation platforms in commodity value chains.



Number of knowledge products generated by CORAF



**AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES
AND INNOVATIONS TO SUPPORT
FOOD SECURITY IN WEST AND
CENTRAL AFRICA**

01



The large-scale deployment of agricultural technologies and innovations is crucial to boosting food production and strengthening food and nutritional security, especially amid the challenges of rapid population growth and climate change.

In 2025, CORAF's initiatives to promote the dissemination of improved agricultural technologies in West and Central Africa have yielded significant results in line with the CORAF's Strategic Plan. To date, 930,727 beneficiaries have adopted these innovations, representing 71% of the target of 1,295,000 by 2027, reflecting significant progress in the transformation of agricultural practices and improvement of living conditions for people in the region. 35% of the beneficiaries of these technologies are women (325,754). This dynamic contributes to their economic empowerment, with a noticeable shift toward agribusiness activities.

This success comes from an integrated dissemination and upscaling approach that combines innovative methods with new

ways of structuring the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) into regional centers of excellence. By leveraging the 11 Centers of Excellence and Specialization and implementing a multi-pronged strategy that combines 109 Innovation Platforms (IPs), 10 Agricultural Technology Parks (PTAs), 10 Community Immersion Hubs (CIHs) and 5 Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs), as well as an Integrated Landscape Management approach, CORAF has been able to bring about tangible improvements in terms of productivity, food security, and climate adaptation.

CORAF's integrated model, which combines ATP, CIH, CSV, ILM, and IP, demonstrates how localized innovation, partnerships, and climate adaptation can transform the food systems.

With a focus placed on scalability, private-sector engagement, and a farmer-centered approach, CORAF is unlocking the agricultural potential of West and Central Africa—one village and one technology at a time.



Visit by Mali's Minister of Agriculture, Daniel Siméon Kelema, and the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Youba Ba, to the Agricultural Technology and Innovation Park in Bamako during MITA 2025.

UPSCALING AND IMPACT OF IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Since 2019, CORAF has been implementing Agricultural Technology and Innovation Parks (ATIPs) to coordinate, align, and integrate research, extension, and agricultural extension activities in West and Central Africa. The parks provide a structured framework for ease of dissemination and adoption of research-based technologies and innovations all the way to end users.

CORAF has maintained the operation of **ten Agricultural Technology Parks (ATPs)** in nine countries, notably Benin, Burkina

Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad, and Togo; providing ongoing demonstrations of proven technologies and innovations to end users. The technologies selected and demonstrated include, among others, improved crop varieties, crop management systems, light mechanization, and postharvest technologies. These are agricultural technologies and innovations with significant potential for impact across the board: **79% are gender-sensitive, 58% are nutrition-sensitive, and 67% are climate-smart.**

“



“We now have a thorough understanding of how agricultural technology and innovation parks operate. One of the main challenges at present is to expand the deployment of these parks to get them closer to the end users, following the successful example set by Senegal. Since 2024, Senegal has begun expanding them into the interior of the country, already reaching seven regions. Being close to end users is a major asset in technology transfer.”

Dr Niéyidouba LAMIEN,

Regional Component 2 Coordinator of the FSRP and Program Manager at CORAF.



Photo 1. Open Day at the Davié Agricultural Technology and Innovation Park, Togo



Photo 2. Open Day at the agricultural technology and innovation park in Farako Bâ, Burkina Faso.

DISSEMINATION OF TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND DYNAMIZED YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Partnerships and the dissemination of agricultural technologies and innovations through agricultural technology and innovation parks are crucial for modernizing agriculture in West and Central Africa. In 2025, CORAF's efforts have focused on strengthening collaborations with the public sector, the private sector, and NGOs. This has helped accelerate the dissemination of technologies, build the capacity of stakeholders, and facilitate market access. These partnerships have also promoted access to quality inputs, as well as training and mentoring, contributing to the development of local seed systems and the strengthening of agricultural value chains in the region.

In Ghana, CSIR-SARI has strengthened

its collaboration with **24 partner institutions**, achieving remarkable growth in seed production, notably a doubling of the production of basic seeds for fall armyworm-tolerant maize (from 2.56 to 4.88 tons) and rice (from 50 to 80 tons). In Sierra Leone, SLARI has mobilized partnerships worth a combined total of \$390,000 for seed production and technology dissemination. CSIR-CRI and CSIR-SARI have strengthened partnerships with the private sector and donors, facilitating seed distribution and support for youth. Through training, mentoring, and technical support, 134 young people have acquired practical and entrepreneurial skills, promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices and the development of local seed businesses.

“



“These agricultural technology and innovation parks go beyond their role as mere demonstration sites; they are true living laboratories and showcases where science serves practical applications. By promoting climate-smart innovations and collaborating closely with local communities, we are laying the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient agricultural future in West Africa.”

Dr. Caroline Makamto Sobgui,
Senior Specialist, Technology Transfer at CORAF

The strategy of CORAF and its partners is primarily aimed at leveraging agricultural technology and innovation parks as key platforms for the large-scale deployment of innovations, while making sure that the technologies offered are effectively meeting the needs of farmers and agro-industrialists.

Technologies associated with the animal production sector are also a priority for CORAF. In Burkina Faso,

forage demonstrations at the Farako-Bâ agricultural technology and innovation parks made it easier to sell 32,000 alfalfa cuttings to various partners and various forage seeds to the PRECEL project of the Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso. The demonstrations of forage technologies resulted in their practical adoption by actors and their integration into national projects.



Photo 3. Demonstration of forage use for animal feed

It demonstrates the scale-up potential of these innovations, their contribution to improving livestock productivity, and their ability to generate economic opportunities.

SUCCESS STORY - TRANSFORMING MAIZE FARMING IN GHANA: A SUCCESS STORY BUILT ON PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATION



In response to the growing threat posed by the fall armyworm (FAW), causing yield losses up to 58% in maize production in Ghana, CSIR-SARI, in partnership with CIMMYT, has developed FAW-tolerant maize hybrids.

Supported by CORAF through the FSRP program, these innovations have been disseminated through agricultural technology parks, thereby facilitating their demonstration and adoption by stakeholders. The private sector, notably

Brakatu Investments, has played a key role by investing in the seed production of these varieties across more than 10 hectares and by making certified seeds available to farmers.

“Farmers are enthusiastic about these hybrids because they offer a real solution to the fall armyworm problem. As a seed producer, this aligns with our vision of empowering farmers through cutting-edge technologies,” said Philip Quaye, Administrative and Operations Manager at Brakatu Investments in Ghana.

the results are remarkable: fewer pesticide applications, lower costs, and higher yields. Testimonials from producers corroborate the impact. “Seeing the results here of this maize variety at the agricultural technology and innovation park convinced me that this variety is what I need to protect my crops and increase my yield.” **Mr. Fuseini Ibrahim, a farmer from Kpalsogu**

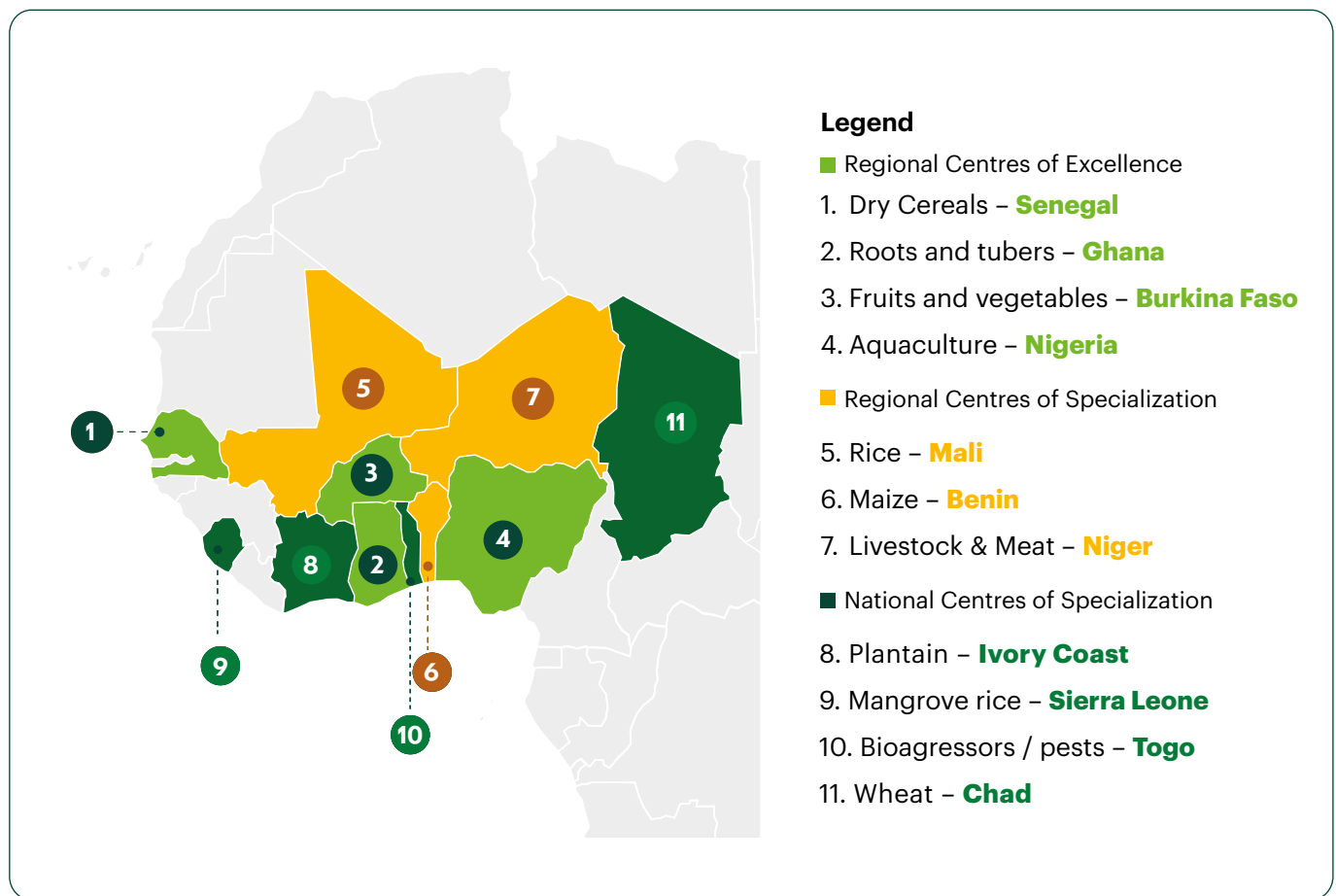
Thanks to CORAF’s coordinating role and the synergy between research, the private sector, and producers, this innovation offers strong up scaling potential to transform maize production in the region.

COORDINATION OF THE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

The National Centers of Specialization (NCoS) form the operational foundation of the CORAF system. Building on their thematic expertise, they strengthen researchers' competencies and infrastructure whilst developing and validating technologies tailored to the West and Central African contexts. Such centers enable the pooling of resources, prevent duplication of effort, and are gradually upgrading into regional centers of excellence to address specific and cross-border challenges.

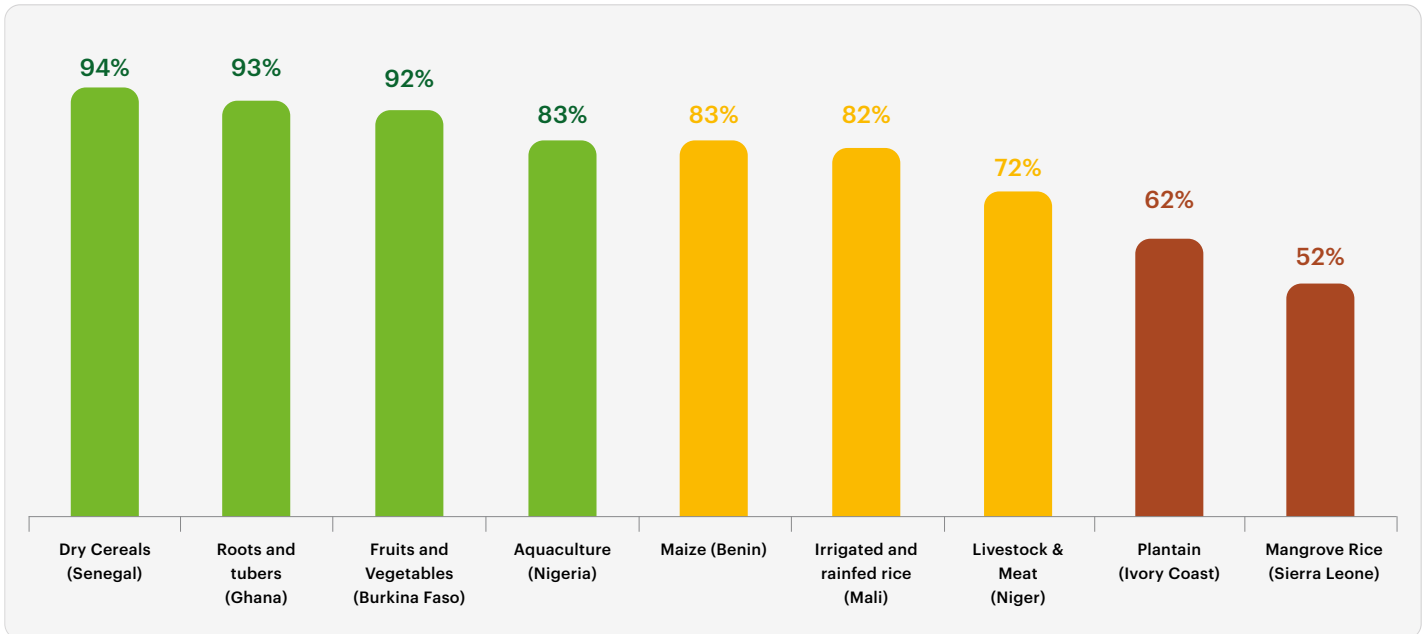
Regional coordination supported by CORAF guarantees that innovations developed at one center benefit all member countries, thus maximizing the return on investment and avoiding costly duplication.

In 2025, the Nigeria Aquaculture Center upgraded into Regional Center of Excellence (RCoE), bringing the total to **4 Regional Centers of Excellence, 4 Regional Centers of Specialization, and 3 National Centers of Specialization.**



In addition to its coordinating role of agricultural research in the region, CORAF has continued its efforts to strengthen

regional agricultural research capacity by bringing specialized centers up to standard.



Overall maturity of ECOWAS NCoSs in the migration into Regional Centers of Specialization (RCoE)

With the support of CORAF, planning for the Regional Center of Specialization in Livestock and the Regional Center of Excellence on Dryland Cereals and Associated Crops (CERAAS) has reached a major milestone. **Fourteen proven technologies** for upscaling in the livestock sector and **29 research themes** in dryland cereals have been identified. Beyond the numbers, what is to be commended is the establishment of a mechanism to address these challenges. The established roadmaps pave the way for in-depth research focused on solving on-the-ground issues through

the system of sub-commissioned projects established by CORAF.

CORAF intends to continue its efforts to harmonize and strengthen governance, as well as the scientific, technical, and sectoral coordination capacities. This initiative will aim to consolidate synergies among the centers, with a view to improving the performance of the regional agricultural research and development system and increasing the impact of innovations for the benefit of the players.

PROMOTING AGROECOLOGY IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In the face of climate change, soil degradation, and biodiversity loss, agriculture in West and Central Africa must adapt. In February 2025, CORAF launched the RADiUS project (RMRN_RADiUS), a regional initiative carried out in partnership with Cheikh-Anta-Diop University (UCAD), Joseph KI-ZERBO University (UJKZ), Félix-Houphouët-Boigny University (UFHB), the Agricultural Research Institute for

Development (IRAD), the Cotton Research Institute (IRC), the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The initiative aims to support farms in their agroecological transition to strengthen food and nutrition security in five countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal.



Photo 4. RADiUS project launch workshop in Dakar

Funded by the European Union through the DeSIRA+ program, this project embodies a multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary approach, bringing together academic institutions, research centers, and regional organizations to generate and disseminate actionable knowledge for the benefit of decision-makers and farmers.



“The RADiUS project marks a crucial step in supporting the region’s agricultural actors in their transition toward sustainable practices. By strengthening local capacities, we aim to accelerate the widespread adoption of innovative solutions for resilient and productive agriculture. This initiative also presents an opportunity to improve soil health and the sustainable management of natural resources, while fostering the emergence of local entrepreneurial initiatives.”



Dr Moumini SAVADOGO,
Executive Director of CORAF

This integrated approach aims to build an agricultural model that is more environmentally friendly and resilient to climate challenges. Collaboration between academic institutions, research organizations, community actors, and farmer organizations offers a unique opportunity to share knowledge and disseminate best practices.



“In collaborating with academic institutions, research organizations, and NGOs, we are strengthening our capacity to generate innovations tailored to farmers’ real needs, by valuing their traditional knowledge while enriching it with modern scientific knowledge.”



Dr Moustapha Guèye,
Director General of the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA)

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

Under **Component 2 of the FSRP program** coordinated by CORAF, significant progress has been made in implementing Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) activities through three complementary areas of focus.

In terms of on-farm investments, **1,591 low-emission stoves** were distributed, contributing to reduced deforestation and improved living conditions for rural households. At the same time, **269 tons of improved seeds** were delivered to producers, and **536 micro-projects funded**

in 2024 are being closely monitored to ensure their effectiveness on the ground.

At the community level, **1,425 agricultural extension workers and producers** were trained in ILM practices, sustainably strengthening local capacities. Post-harvest infrastructure was strengthened through the construction of **9 warehouses** with a capacity of **60 tons** each and the provision of **120 pieces of agricultural equipment**, including 60 motor tillers and 60 threshing machines, for the benefit of producer groups.



Photo 5. Rotary tillers acquired for cooperatives in Togo

On the environmental front, **275 hectares** were restored through water and soil conservation practices, **571 hectares** were inspected, and **212 hectares of water bodies** were stocked with fish to support food security and the incomes of riparian communities. Finally, **19,942 tons of NPK fertilizer** were distributed to improve soil fertility, and reforestation efforts were carried out on 3,483 hectares.

These achievements demonstrate the commitment of CORAF and its partners to promoting sustainable agricultural landscapes management, combining productivity, climate resilience, and community inclusion.

Furthermore, CORAF is supporting the establishment of a regional platform for Integrated Landscape Management in collaboration with AGRHYMET.

As part of the FSRP, CORAF and RESCAR-AOC organized a workshop in Ouagadougou to present a mapping of modern agricultural extension tools and approaches in West and Central Africa. Bringing together extension officers, researchers, NGOs, and private sector actors, the workshop presented a compendium of effective practices and defined a roadmap to modernize agricultural advisory services through digital technology and participatory approaches.



Photo 6. Presentation of the mapping of agricultural extension tools

ESTABLISHMENT OF INNOVATION PLATFORMS (IPS)

CORAF ensured the smooth operation of the innovation platforms (IPs) established to guarantee the effective updating of technologies.

In The Gambia, for example, members of IPs had their capacities strengthened to improve their productivity as part of the GIRAV project funded by the World Bank. There were two main training modules: (i) pre-production (input supply, site selection, land preparation, germination testing, and nursery management) and (ii) good agricultural practices (planting, weed management, pest and disease management, soil fertility management, harvesting, and post-harvest management).

In 2025, the GIRAV project, in collaboration

with the Gambian Department of Agriculture, supported producers nationwide by distributing 210 metric tons of certified maize seeds and 50 metric tons of certified rice seeds. These seeds were sourced locally with technical assistance from CORAF, NARI, NSS, and the Department of Agriculture.

In the field, farmers expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the seeds received and anticipate a bountiful harvest. They expressed their gratitude to the Gambian government and the World Bank for this crucial support.

This initiative is a concrete example of CORAF's contribution to strengthening regional seed systems and improving food security in West Africa.



Photo 7. Producers benefiting from improved seeds in The Gambia

PROMOTING ACCESS TO AND THE INTRA-REGIONAL TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS

CORAF is making efforts to facilitate the acquisition and provision of these technologies to countries and regional project implementation units. Among the technologies currently made available are tree species, management practices, crop varieties, machinery, information technologies, processing techniques, as well as livestock breeds and husbandry practices.

One of the most sought-after technologies is plant varieties, so much so that 29 varieties are currently made available.

CORAF also organized the 5th edition of the Market for Agricultural Innovations and Technologies (MITA) 2025 in Bamako, Mali, which served as a regional platform to showcase technologies and connect innovators with investors and private-sector partners. The event facilitated exchanges among researchers, policymakers, development partners, and private-sector actors, and helped strengthen the regional

innovation ecosystem. This edition, held in October 2025 on integrated soil management, brought together 203 participants (30% women), showcased 33 technologies, and generated 24 purchase commitments from countries in the region. Technology providers included private companies (4), national agricultural research systems (20), and international research centers (4).

As a reminder, the 2025 edition of MITA was organized under the chairmanship of Mali's Prime Minister, Major General Abdoulaye Maiga, in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture and several members of the Malian government. Under the theme "Facilitating Access to Agricultural Technologies and Innovations for Integrated Soil Management," this edition of MITA 2025 highlighted the challenges and solutions for restoring soil fertility and strengthening the resilience of agricultural systems in the face of climate change.



Photo 8. The Prime Minister of Mali visiting the stands accompanied by the Chair of the CORAF Board of Directors



Photo 9. Stands during MITA 2025

Additionally, CORAF is reaffirming its facilitating role in the intra-regional transfer of agricultural technologies and innovations as it organizes a panel of regional agriculture ministers during MITA. At this ministerial panel, participants discussed the policies and mechanisms needed to acquire and deploy agricultural technologies.

This strategic dialogue primarily aimed to identify institutional barriers to the widespread adoption of technologies, strengthen political commitments, and promote the upscaling of innovations to effectively address climate and food challenges.



Photo 10. Panel of Agriculture Ministers during MITA

The 2nd edition of the Abdoulaye Touré Prize honored four innovators from Togo, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Mali in the fields of post-harvest mechanization, crop bioprotection, and the development of local value chains.

In the agricultural productivity category, Mr. Guema M'Bantana (Togo) won first prize for his squash harvester-peeler, and Ms. Mariama Faye (Senegal) won second prize

for “Silicoderma,” a biocide-biostimulant based on orthosilicic acid. Finally, in the agricultural finance and trade category, Mr. Abel Tankoano (Burkina Faso) was awarded for his comprehensive utilization of the cashew apple, and Ms. Hélène Ndiaye (Mali/RESAPAC) for her network of weekly organic markets connecting producers, processors, and consumers in Bamako.



Photo 11. Winner of the second edition of the Abdoulaye TOURE Agricultural Innovation Prize

SUCCESS STORY: ABDOULAYE TOURE AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD: A LEVER FOR RECOGNITION AND DISSEMINATION



Due to CORAF and the Abdoulaye Touré Agricultural Innovation Prize, Dr. Karim Nébié has been able to improve his product and meet growing demand of mango producers in the region. Winning the Prize was a turning point for Mango Protect, with the company obtaining ECOCERT organic farming certification (in compliance with EU Regulations No. 2018/848 and 2021/1165) in February 2025.

This recognition has opened up new markets, particularly in organic farming, and helped win over mango sector producers. In 2025, 14,600 liters of Mango Protect were sold for 18.25 million CFA francs. Orders came from Burkina Faso and other countries such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Togo.

“

“This award demonstrates just how committed CORAF is to supporting all researchers in developing agricultural innovations to boost agricultural production in West and Central Africa. Mango Protect is a pesticide- and contaminant-free product used in traps to capture both male and female fruit flies from about ten species that cause damage to mangoes,”

Dr Karim Nébié.

**INCREASED ADOPTION OF
STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING
OPTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONS,
POLICIES, AND MARKETS**

02

In 2025, CORAF has asserted its role as a producer of regional public goods of high strategic value, equipping governments, research institutions, and agricultural sector stakeholders with tools, frameworks, and knowledge enabling them to anticipate risks, formulate informed policies, and accelerate transitions toward more resilient food systems.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNANCE MECHANISM FOR THE SEED SECTOR

To ensure the proper implementation of the harmonized seed regulations in the West African region, the ECOWAS Commission designated CORAF in 2013 as the facilitator and coordinator for the implementation of the harmonized regional seed and seedlings regulations in member states.

In 2025, CORAF, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), and the Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), organized in September 2025 in Accra, Ghana, the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the Regional Seeds and Seedlings Committee for West Africa and the Sahel (CRSPAOS).



Photo 12. Presidium during the 10th CRSPAOS meeting in Ghana

At this annual meeting, participants reviewed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 9th session, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in 2024, and assessed the status of implementation of the harmonized regional seed regulations by member countries of the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS region. The main recommendations of this 10th session will be translated into a regional strategy for the seed sector in 2026.

“



“We must intensify our efforts to ensure that harmonized seed regulations serve as dynamic tools that facilitate seed trade, promote quality assurance, and improve farmers’ access to improved varieties”

Mr. John DUMELO,

Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana.

The effective harmonization of seed regulations within the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS region should ultimately allow for the free movement of certified seeds, thereby contributing to improved agricultural productivity and food self-sufficiency in West Africa and the Sahel. Recognizing this challenge, **the West African Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties (CREVAOS)** was launched to improve regional harmonization of seed policies.

Countries in the region have thus received support for the collection and sharing of the quality information necessary to ensure compliance with the ECOWAS seed label, including the phytosanitary requirements applicable to cross-border seed trade. The objective is to prevent the entry and spread of quarantine pests and to limit the spread and impact of non-quarantine pests carried by seeds and seedlings.

In its capacity as the Permanent Secretariat of the CRSPAOS, CORAF continues, with the support of its technical and financial partners, its coordinating efforts to ensure the effective implementation of harmonized regulations and to accelerate producers' access to quality seeds.

“



“Seed multiplication remains insufficient to meet our needs, certification systems still suffer from shortfalls, and, above all, trade barriers continue to hinder the free movement of seeds between our countries. These challenges call for innovative solutions and renewed political will.”

Dr Moumini SAVADOGO,
Executive Director of CORAF.

REGIONAL PEST DISEASE OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

CORAF has also actively promoted the Regional Pest and Disease Outbreak Preparedness and Response Plan in West and Central Africa, launched in 2024, through organizing two regional workshops involving National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). This plan, which represents a paradigm shift from responsive crisis management to a strategic and proactive approach, has received formal endorsement from key regional stakeholders. A monitoring committee has been established and a resource mobilization framework defined to ensure its implementation in a sustainable manner.

INTEGRATING CLIMATE DIMENSION INTO AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT DECISIONS

CORAF has strengthened the capacity of eight West African countries to **assess and document the climate-smart characteristics** of agricultural technologies intended for national deployment. Covering four categories—namely improved varieties and breeds, fertilizers and plant protection products, small equipment, and agronomic practices—this exercise produced country-specific evaluation reports. These documents provide rigorous and comparable decision-making bases, enabling governments to prioritize their agricultural investments in technologies and innovations to be deployed in these countries in line with their climate commitments.



Overview of country profiles on the climate-smart characteristics of promoted agricultural technologies



**PROMOTING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES
IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

03

In 2025, CORAF reconfirmed its foundational mission: to build the human and institutional capacity essential to ensuring that agricultural research in West and Central Africa is of high quality, relevant, and sustainable.

Through a coherent set of actions including cutting-edge scientific training, infrastructure modernization, the development of the next generation of researchers, the inclusion of women and youth, and the strengthening of CORAF's international standing, this third result reflects a fully embraced long-term strategic vision.

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY

CORAF operates a policy dedicated to gender and social inclusion, as well as integrated operationalization tools at both institutional level and across all its projects. The implementation of this policy has enabled the effective integration of youth, women, and people with disabilities into initiatives carried out in 2025.

With support from ECOWAS, ten National Centers of Specialization (NCoS) hosted agripreneurship training sessions for young people as part of the Youth Employability and Agricultural Research Program. This initiative also facilitated the professional immersion of young graduates within these centers, thereby helping to strengthen their practical skills and facilitate their integration into the sector.

BOX: YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAM

The ECOWAS Youth Employment Program is a regional initiative coordinated by CORAF through its national agricultural research systems in West Africa. It covers **10 specialized centers in 10 countries**, serving 1,640 beneficiaries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The program features both normative gender mainstreaming—enshrined in contracts (with a minimum of **40% women** among beneficiaries)—and operational gender mainstreaming, including concrete inclusion strategies and measurable results with mid-term targets.

Each center has committed to defining gender-sensitive selection criteria, adapting training schedules and methods to women's constraints, and so on. Regarding mid-term results, out of **974/1,640 targeted youth, 409 women—or 42%**—were trained in 9 active centers, exceeding the contractual threshold of 40%. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the recruitment strategies implemented.



Photo 13. Training of young people as part of the youth employability project.

FEEDBACKS FROM THE FIELD: SLARI, ECOWAS, AND CORAF TRAIN YOUNG FARMERS IN MANGROVE RICE CULTIVATION

The Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), in collaboration with ECOWAS and CORAF, organized a two-day training session for young people involved in mangrove rice cultivation in Sierra Leone. The training took place at the Rokupr Agricultural Research Center in Kambia District.

According to the Director of the Rokupr Agricultural Research Center, Dr. Adams Sheka Kanu, this program was to train **150 young people** practicing mangrove rice cultivation across the country. He also noted that following the training, **120 project proposals** would be solicited, from which the best will be selected to receive funding.

The training covered a range of practical skills, including planting techniques, entrepreneurial skills, and agricultural mechanization skills, such as tractor operation.

This initiative aims to encourage young people to view mangrove rice cultivation as a viable economic activity. It is fully aligned with the Government of Sierra Leone's efforts to achieve **national food security**.



Photo 14. Youth Training in Sierra Leone (Youth Employability Project)

GENDER & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: TOWARD MORE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

In 2025, technical support from the Gender, Youth, and Social Equity program covered all projects of the CORAF Secretariat as well as those its partners (NARS, REC, CGIAR, and R&D institutions), with CORAF recording the following activities and results:

WOMEN AND YOUTH ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND RESOURCES

The efforts of CORAF and its partners have increased the participation of women and young people in vegetable production and local seed systems, two key sectors for income and job generation. More specifically,



of climate-smart vegetable seeds were distributed in 4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal) to benefit women and young producers.



(onion, tomato, Caribbean chili pepper, yellow chili pepper, and others) were produced in eight production zones in Senegal.

TRAINING, SKILLS, AND EMPLOYABILITY FOR YOUTH

To enable the most vulnerable populations (youth, women, people with disabilities) to access decent work and leave poverty, CORAF supports the development of training and capacity-building initiatives:



2167 PEOPLE TRAINED
a significant proportion of whom were young people (54% of the 2027 target).



20 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED
in establishing integrated farms in Pikine (Senegal), achieving 100% of the target, with an improvement in knowledge ranging from +40% to +60%.



25 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED
in agroecological modules, 30% of whom were women, with 100% demonstrating understanding.

In offering learning opportunities, these initiatives have improved the employability of young people in urban agriculture, agroecology, and agripreneurship.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SYSTEMS

CORAF plays a key role in strengthening women's leadership and participation in agricultural research and extension systems. Several joint initiatives have been conducted to support women and young people, including:



394 FEMALE RESEARCHERS

involved, representing **99%** of the 2027 target.



Women account for **35%** of all program beneficiaries.

TARGETED TRAINING SESSIONS CONDUCTED FOR:



23 PARTICIPANTS,

including **14 women**, on gender mainstreaming in rural extension services;



34 RESEARCHERS,

including **24 women (70,5 %)**, on integrating gender and social inclusion into agricultural research.

These results illustrate significant progress in women's leadership in agricultural research and extension systems.



In 2025, CORAF have reached thousands of women and young people, funded dozens of researchers, and trained a new generation of agricultural players. Upscaling now depends on post-training support and the integration of results into...

DESIGNING A STRATEGIC AND ACTION PLAN ON GENDER AND YOUTH FOR THE ECA-FIRST PROGRAM

The inclusion of women and youth has been and remains a priority for the African Union, not only because it is enshrined in its Constitutive Act, but also because it is a fundamental human right, that plays a key role in accelerating the continent's economic growth and social development. CORAF has therefore been designated to develop the Gender and Youth Strategy for the ECA-FIRST program, in collaboration with YPARD.

CEA-FIRST is a bi-continental program established to operationalize the International Research Consortium (IRC) as a long-term platform on food and nutritional security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA) in accordance with the FNSSA roadmap of the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD). The program is implemented by 21 African and European international institutions.



TRAINING SCIENTISTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES OF TOMORROW

PRECISION AGRICULTURE: USHERING IN THE ERA OF DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

CORAF, in collaboration with CNRADA, organized a regional workshop on **precision agriculture applied to rice cultivation** from November 16 to 20, 2025, in Kédi (Mauritania) as part of the FSRP program. This activity illustrates CORAF's ambition to position the NARS at the global technological frontier. Eleven researchers from eight countries were trained in the use of multispectral drones (DJI Mavic 3M and DJI T50), RTK stations, Pix4D Fields software, and SmartFarm platforms for plot mapping, water stress detection, monitoring of diseases and nutrient deficiencies, as well as pest control.



The workshop opened up concrete prospects for the creation of units dedicated to precision agriculture within the NARS and the pooling of resources at the regional level. Precision agriculture is thus emerging as a strategic lever for food resilience in West Africa.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND AGROECOLOGY: STRENGTHENING FIELD EXPERTISE

Through the RADiUS project, CORAF facilitated the design of a master's program in Agroecology and Climate Risk Management at Joseph Ki-Zerbo University (UJKZ) in Burkina Faso by assessing stakeholder needs, co-developing the curriculum for the four semesters, and identifying technical and financial partners.

MODERNIZING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANT BREEDING

CORAF supports the modernization of infrastructure in national agricultural research systems through initiatives such as the ABEE project. Coordinated by CORAF, this project aims to strengthen regional breeding networks, equip researchers, and promote varieties that are more resilient, productive, adapted to the local environment, and being of high nutritional quality. It targets five crops: sorghum, millet, cowpea, groundnut, and fonio.

“



“The ABEE project marks a turning point in the organization and professionalization of plant breeding in West Africa. Through a collaborative approach, we are using research to serve farmers in building a more resilient and inclusive agriculture,”

Dr Ousmane Ndoye,
ABEE Project Coordinator.

The **ABEE** project has achieved a **100% completion** rate of its investment plans in the three target countries (Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Niger). The research stations have been equipped with boreholes fitted with solar pumping systems, cold storage rooms, irrigation ponds, greenhouses, areas for threshing, sorting, and seed processing, as well as vehicles and computer equipment. These modernized facilities now enable high-quality agricultural research year-round, regardless of weather conditions.

At the same time, **69 researchers and technicians** from national agricultural research institutions in the three countries covered by the ABEE project and the IAVAO program deepened their expertise in using the BMS (Breeding Management System), in statistical analysis, and in integrating breeding programs for sorghum, millet, cowpea, groundnut, and fonio in the arid zone of West Africa.

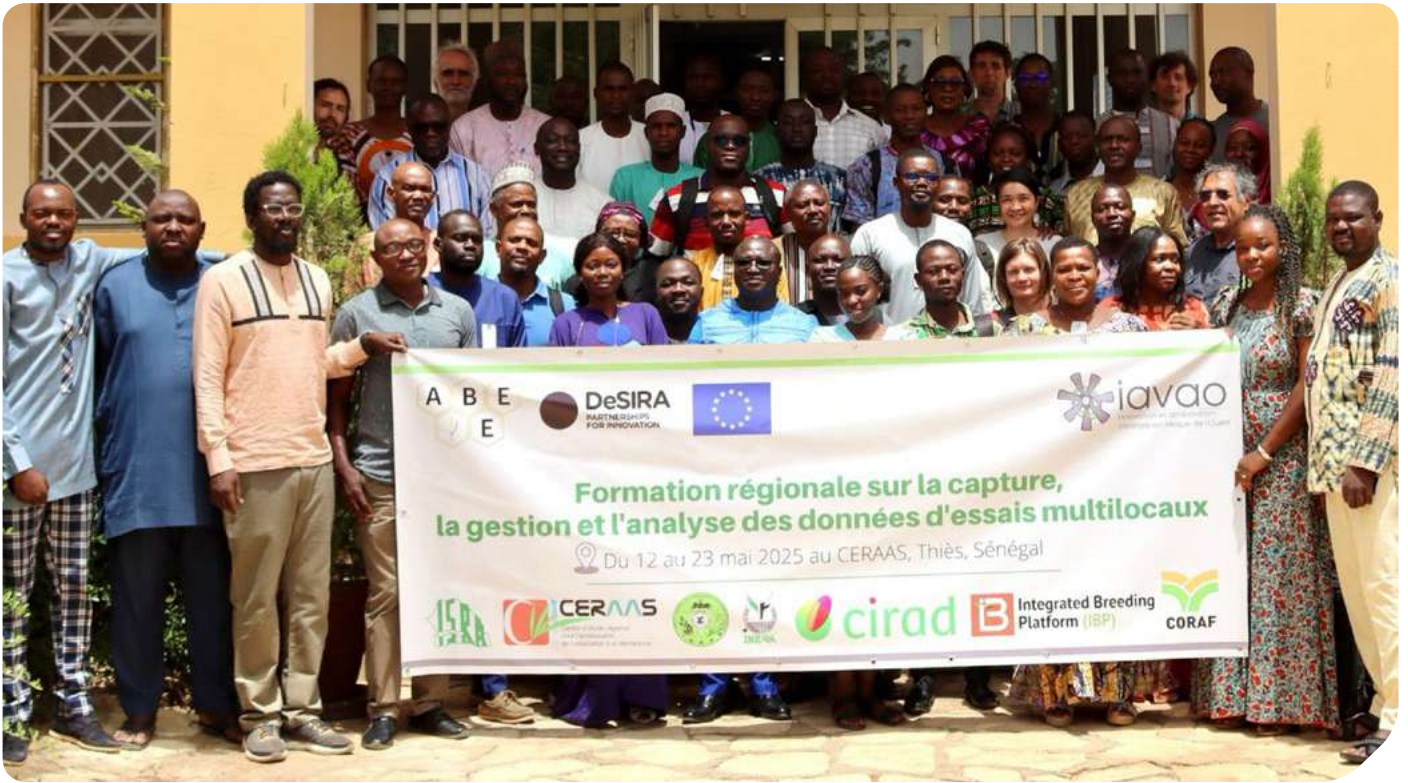


Photo 15. Regional training under the ABEE project.

Still within the ABEE project, **10,310 farmers—37% of whom were women**—participated in 2,040 participatory trials conducted in natural conditions in Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Niger, in partnership with five farmers' organizations (AMSP, YIYE, Sougr-Nooma, RESOPP, Fuma Gaskia, and Mooriben). Such co-research approach ensures that the promoted varieties meet farmers' actual preferences, maximizing the chances of their adoption and impact in the field.



DEMAND-DRIVEN RESEARCH: SEVEN CONSORTIA, CONCRETE RESULTS

To address the need for agricultural research and development in the region, CORAF has supported national agricultural research systems in prioritizing investments in agricultural research. In total, twenty-five (25) grant agreements were secured for seven multi-institutional research consortia bringing together NAARs, CGIAR centers, and international research institutions. The first tangible results started to appear 2025:

Biostimulants Consortium: Trials conducted with 77 maize growers in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire demonstrate that formulations combining arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) and plant growth-promoting bacteria (PGPR) significantly improve soil fertility and yield, with higher performance at the Boundiali and Sakassou sites.

Soybean Consortium: 92 accessions collected, 24 lines evaluated in Togo, 4 high-yielding varieties identified for nutritional analysis, 24 farmers trained in composting.

SRI Hybrid Rice Consortium — 2 varieties distributed (Mayun 1 and Winall 851) in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Senegal; 28 stakeholders trained in SRI practices.



Biocontrol Consortium: Two biological control agents selected: *Nesidiocoris tenuis* against the tomato leafhopper and *Eiphosoma laphygmae* against the fall armyworm.

Local Fruits Consortium: 8,600 seedlings produced (6,000 in northern Ghana, 2,600 in Samanko, Mali), 9 accessions of superior fruit species planted (baobab, jujube, tamarind), 25 stakeholders trained in grafting.

Forage Seeds Consortium: 163 forage species identified in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal, with multiplication and presentation at the SAHEL Fair in Niger.

Shallot/Onion Consortium: Participatory evaluation of 232 varieties, including 15 disease-tolerant ones, in collaboration with the World Vegetable Center.

Results obtained are used to address urgent agricultural research challenges in the region and to enhance the impact of agricultural innovations that benefit millions of farmers in the region.

CORAF: MASSIVE INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL

In 2025, CORAF remained as committed as ever to training the next generation of African agricultural researchers through a number of complementary programs:

TARSPRO PROJECT: 46 students received funding in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Chad. 60% have already defended their theses—that is, 28 students, including 19 master’s students and 9 PhD students.

ABEE PROJECT: 12 PhD students (including 2 women) supervised in plant breeding, 1 thesis defended, 6 scientific articles published, and a **book published by Éditions Harmattan** in tribute to the late student Fabrice ZONGO, titled *The Institutional Economics of Varietal Innovation in Sorghum and Millet in Burkina Faso*.



In addition, 50 Master's II students (including 8 women) conducted their research, with 34 having already completed their theses.

BIORISKS PROJECT: 13 students from 10 countries trained in the socio-economics of cassava viral disease surveillance. 7 theses defended (including 4 by women). 12 scientific articles published.

FSRP Program : 9 PhD students receiving CORAF fellowships, who presented their work during the **PhD Student Scientific Days**.

Immersion Program : 11 students in their final year hosted at the National Centers of Specialization as part of the second cohort of the immersion program launched in 2023.

BOX: IMMERSION OF YOUNG STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PARKS

In Sierra Leone, SLARI's Agricultural Technology and Innovation Park (ATIP) has helped build young people's capacities by hosting students from Ernest Bai Koroma University for a practical immersion program. Under the guidance of SLARI experts, these students acquired technical skills in agricultural production, particularly in rice cultivation, maize spacing, and fertilizer use.

This initiative illustrates the role of agricultural technology and innovation parks as drivers of training, skills transfer, and the promotion of modern agriculture among young people.





**STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL
AND HUMAN CAPACITIES IN
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

04

In 2025, CORAF steadfastly continued its efforts towards strengthening scientific, technical, and institutional capacity across the region, combining high-level training, the modernization of research infrastructure, participatory selection, and multi-country applied research. This achievement demonstrates CORAF's commitment to long-term investment in human and institutional capital as an essential prerequisite for regional agricultural innovation.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE: TRAINING SCIENTISTS IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

The regional workshop on **precision agriculture applied to rice cultivation**, organized from November 16 to 20, 2025, in Kédi (Mauritania) by CNRADA in collaboration with CORAF as part of the FSRP/PRSA, recorded the participation **11 researchers from 8 countries**. Participants were trained in the fundamentals of precision agriculture—variability management, data collection and analysis, targeted interventions—as well as in the use of advanced digital tools such as multispectral drones (DJI Mavic 3M and DJI T50), RTK stations, Pix4D Fields software, and the DJI SmartFarm and IAV Forecast platforms. Multispectral imaging was presented as a key tool for the early detection of water stress, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies. This workshop opened up concrete prospects for digital agripreneurship and, while highlighting the need to create units dedicated to precision agriculture within the NARS.

DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG TARGET CLIENTS IS FACILITATED AND MET

By 2025, CORAF has consolidated its role as a regional facilitator of access to agricultural knowledge by establishing an integrated framework combining participatory approaches, demand-driven knowledge production, and the digital transformation of the knowledge management system. This dynamic has made it possible to better identify user needs, structure the demand, and respond to it in a more effective, inclusive, and context-specific manner.

A MORE CLEARLY DEFINED AND STRUCTURED KNOWLEDGE DEMAND

CORAF continued to strengthen mechanisms for capturing demand for agricultural knowledge at various levels. Innovation platforms (IPs) served as key spaces for interaction among producers, researchers, the private sector, and decision-makers, facilitating the needs identification and their translation into operational solutions. In 2025, 109 functional innovation platforms enabled demand to be structured around priority value chains and interventions to be focused on concrete issues such as productivity, input management, processing, and market access.

What's more, demand-driven research approaches allowed user needs to be directly incorporated into the design of innovations, thus making the solutions developed more relevant and increasing their adoption.



Promotional Day: Innovation Platform on Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato



Promotional Day: Innovation Platform on Local Milk

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO ENHANCE ACCESS AND UTILIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE

In 2025, CORAF has accelerated the digitization of its knowledge management system by setting up an integrated and interoperable digital ecosystem designed to effectively meet the growing demand for agricultural knowledge.

This ecosystem is centered around the **website** and other complementary platforms, including the **Expert Directory**, the digital archiving platform – Dspace (<https://archives.coraf.org/>), and the MITA platform, currently undergoing a redesign, which are gradually being integrated into the **Digital Knowledge Hub (DKH)**, a portal for accessing agricultural knowledge.

The Experts Directory, with over 300 registered experts and 120,000 visits, facilitates access to regional expertise and meets the needs expressed by institutions and partners. The digital archiving platform ensures the preservation and traceability of scientific and technical resources. It contains over 1,000 archived documents. The **iCORAF** enables real-time visualization of data from about fifteen projects and their use for knowledge capitalization.

“

“Ivorian researchers listed in CORAF’s Experts Directory have been sought out by regional organizations, notably CORAF, the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan, and partner institutes, for advisory missions, particularly on plantains, rubber, and food crops. This Directory has become an effective link between national expertise and regional needs.”

“With my registration in CORAF’s Experts Directory, I was contacted by an African think tank specializing in agricultural research to assist with its work on learning and knowledge management. This platform establishes direct links between expertise and institutional needs, thereby transforming visibility into concrete collaboration.”

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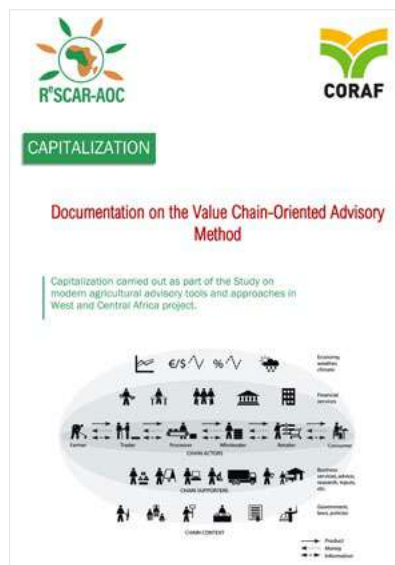
Digitalization has also strengthened CORAF's capacity to capture and analyze demand for knowledge by leveraging data from projects and MEL systems, thereby helping to guide knowledge production on an evidence basis.

As part of its innovation drive, CORAF has also launched initiatives focused on artificial intelligence, notably through a webinar that drew over 250 participants from the NARs.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS ALIGNED WITH USER NEEDS

In 2025, CORAF strengthened demand-driven knowledge production, **generating 36 knowledge products** covering a variety of formats (practical guides, technical and knowledge-sharing sheets, studies, scientific articles, strategic notes, etc.). These products are disseminated through CORAF's and its partners' digital channels, as well as scientific journals such as MDPI.

Knowledge capitalization activities have enabled the transformation of field experiences into actionable knowledge, particularly through the documentation of flagship approaches such as innovation platforms, technology parks, community immersion centers, and climate-smart villages.



Some examples of knowledge products

A STRENGTHENED DYNAMIC OF LEARNING AND NETWORKING

CORAF has strengthened its role as a regional facilitator of learning by participating in major events (AAEW, CGIAR Science Week, AFSF, MITA) and leading communities of practice. These platforms have facilitated knowledge sharing, promoted innovations and strengthened interactions among stakeholders.



African Agricultural Extension Week (AAEW 2025)

CORAF AT THE XII INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONSORTIUM (IRC)

More than 600 delegates from 60 countries gathered in Adelaide to put pathways at the heart of global discussions on sustainability.

CORAF, represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, advocated for strong partnerships adapted to local realities in order to build resilient livestock systems in the face of climate and economic challenges in Africa.



The progress made in 2025 reflects a shift toward a more integrated, participatory, and digitally-driven knowledge management system. The integration of field-based initiatives, digital platforms, and knowledge production has improved access to, the relevance of, and the use of agricultural knowledge. However, further efforts are needed to ensure the sustainability of the investments made.



**HIGHLIGHTS SINCE OUR
NARSS IN 2025**

05

CERTIFICATION AND INNOVATION: A LEVER FOR NUTRITION AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN TOGO

In Togo, a quiet yet decisive transformation is underway: improving child nutrition while empowering rural women. Due to support from the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), 17 women's cooperatives specialized in the production of fortified infant formula received health certificates and labeled packaging so they could enter formal markets.

This result is the culmination of a rigorous process. In total, 720 women from 60 cooperatives were trained in good hygiene and processing practices. Following technical monitoring, 30 units were shortlisted, and 17 were ultimately certified by the National Institute of Hygiene, based on analyses conducted in collaboration with the Togolese Institute of Agricultural Research.

Beyond the training, this recognition through certification opens up new economic and social opportunities for women, as attested by the beneficiaries, who are proud to see their products valued and compliant with standards.



Photo 16. Cooperatives that have benefited from product certification

SEED ENTREPRENEURSHIP: YOUNG GHANAIS AT THE HEART OF AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

In Ghana, an initiative led by the CSIR-Savanna Agricultural Research Institute, with support from CORAF, is opening new avenues for youth entrepreneurship in seed production.

Four young farmers received support combining start-up/seed capital and foundation seeds to launch seed businesses on one hectare each, in strategic sectors such as soybeans, rice, and hybrid maize. This initiative aims to strengthen national seed systems while creating sustainable economic opportunities for young people.



“



“Our goal is to help these young people become established seed producers, capable not only of catering for their families but also of creating jobs for other young people,” emphasized Dr. Kusi. “We are not just distributing money and seeds; we are investing in long-term agricultural transformation through youth.”

Dr Francis Kusi,

Director of CSIR-SARI and Coordinator of the Tamale Agricultural Technology and Innovation Park.

Beyond financial support, ongoing technical assistance is provided, from production to marketing, ensuring the viability of the businesses.

“This is much more than just support; it’s a real breakthrough. We are committed to making good use of the seeds and funds and to becoming successful entrepreneurs in the seed sector. We are grateful to CSIR-SARI and CORAF for believing in us,” said one of the beneficiaries.

This initiative is part of the Agricultural Technology and Innovation Parks program supported by CORAF. CSIR-SARI plans to expand this support model for young people during the coming agricultural seasons, with potential replication at its branch offices and partner institutions across the country.

SENEGAL: YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THE SEED REVOLUTION

As part of the CAADP-XP4 project, CORAF organized a series of regional training sessions in 2024 and 2025 for women and youth on seed production techniques and seed business management in West and Central Africa.

The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of women’s and youth-led agricultural enterprises and organizations in seed multiplication, processing, marketing, and management, with **66% female and 36% youth participation**, demonstrating a generation driving agricultural change on the continent.

The enthusiasm of **Gallo Ndiaye, a young farmer from Mboro in the Thiès region** of Senegal, illustrates this transformative momentum through CORAF-led initiatives to build the capacity of young people and women to use quality seeds: *“The seeds are so high-performing that I can transplant them at any time and guarantee a good yield. I regret having discovered CORAF so late... In five years, I want to see a modern, well-equipped farm and to be a supplier to national markets.”*



Photo 17. Gallo Ndiaye, a young farmer from Mboro in the Thiès region, Senegal

This entrepreneurial vision is a concrete extension of the training delivered through the initiative to grant starter seeds as part of post-training support for beneficiaries. Indeed, this approach transforms theoretical learning into an economic opportunity, allowing young entrepreneurs to test, market, and expand high-performing varieties within their communities.

SIERRA LEONE: FOCUS ON YOUTH

“

“The visit by the SLARI Agricultural Technology and Innovation Park team to Fatmata Jalloh’s farm is truly inspiring.

It’s wonderful to see how young farmers are gaining practical skills and access to valuable technologies that can improve their productivity and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.

The initiatives funded by the FSRP through CORAF empower the next generation of farmers while fostering innovation of the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone’s.”

Dr Kanu,
Sierra-Léonne





CORAF PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

06



In 2025, CORAF consolidated and diversified its partnership ecosystem, forming the operational foundation without which the achievements in the fields of research, innovation, and technology transfer could not be achieved at the regional level.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS: BOLSTERING EXCELLENCE IN SCIENTIFIC GOVERNANCE

CORAF's **Scientific and Technical Committee (CST)** has fully fulfilled its role as a leading advisory body, providing independent and rigorous expertise through the evaluation of **20 scientific manuscripts** and **2 grant applications**. These contributions assure the quality and credibility of the scientific production of CORAF and its partners.

PARTNERSHIPS IN AGROECOLOGY: FORMALIZING A STRUCTURED REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Under the **RADiUS** project, **seven partnership agreements** were signed with the member institutions of the consortium, including UCAD, CRS, IRAD, IRC, UJKZ, UFHB, and CIRAD. In order to achieve an effective operational governance structure, five **thematic working groups** have been established to ensure the effective implementation of project activities. This collegial governance structure ensures the consistency, transparency, and effectiveness of the consortium's interventions throughout the entire process, from planning to reporting.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR: CONNECTING RESEARCH TO MARKETS

Engagement with the private sector has been a priority for 2025, yielding concrete results across three complementary dimensions.

CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

In response to needs identified by the FSRP's national units, CORAF facilitated the mobilization of critical agricultural technologies across borders. The most significant requests included: 300 goats for Chad, 30 tons of fall armyworm-resistant maize and 100 kg of tomato seeds for Togo, 20 kg of tomato seeds for Ghana, and 50 tons of flood-resistant rice for Sierra Leone.

To address these needs, CORAF mobilized a network of leading technology providers such as CIFOR-ICRAF, WorldVeg, the Regional Center for Animal Husbandry in Niger, the CSIR-Savannah Research Institute, AfricaRice, and the National Center of Specialization on Banana and Plantain in Côte d'Ivoire, which deliveries are currently being finalized.

TECHNOLOGIES DISSEMINATED BY AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY PARKS (ATPS)

The ATPs have played a central role as an interface platform between research and the private sector. Numerous technologies have been transferred to private actors across the region, notably in Ghana (foundation seeds of fall armyworm-resistant maize and Amankwatia/Enapa rice, commercialized with Brakatu Farms, Naks Life Company, and other companies), in Sierra Leone (30 tons of rice and maize foundation seeds), in Burkina Faso (14,100 sweet potato plants, 10,000 cassava cuttings, 2,450 bundles of alfalfa), in Niger (varieties of millet, cowpea, onion, and groundnut varieties distributed to several seed companies and provided as grants to women seed producers), and in Togo (3 tons of certified groundnuts, as well as rice, sweet potato, cowpea, and chili pepper varieties distributed).

Such transfers are a concrete illustration of CORAF's ability to translate research findings into economic assets that benefit actors in the agricultural sector.

CONTRACT FARMING IN THE GAMBIA: CREATING MARKETS FOR FARMERS

CORAF facilitated the conclusion of **three contract farming agreements** in The Gambia, linking innovation platforms with private buyers for a three-year period. **Maruo Farms**, a large-scale rice processor, has signed an agreement with the innovation platform in the North Central River region to supply high-quality rice. **G-Farms** and **Sabji Farms**, two poultry producers, have signed an agreement with the innovation platform in the South Central River region to supply high-quality maize.

These agreements, which provide for annual negotiations on price, quantity, quality, and delivery mechanisms, establish a predictable and secure market model for producers, reducing their exposure to price risks and enhancing their access to commercial channels.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS: MORE ANCHORING WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

CORAF has entered into a strategic partnership with the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

This partnership will address emerging issues related to climate change within the CORAF region by mobilizing Australian expertise and resources in agricultural research for international development.



Photo 18. ACIAR visit to CORAF headquarters



Signing of a MoU between CORAF and the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT

CORAF has signed an MoU with the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT. These diverse alliances (institutional, scientific, private, and development-oriented) form the essential foundation upon which CORAF's capacity to fulfill its regional coordination mission and amplify the impact of its interventions in West and Central Africa.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND STAFF

The staff of CORAF's Executive Secretariat play an essential role in achieving institutional objectives. In 2025, the Executive Secretariat had 43 employees, 72% of whom held permanent positions.

The permanent staff are supported by internal consultants and interns. In fact, in accordance with the internship policy adopted by the Board of Directors (34th session) and the provisions of Article 5.7 of the Human Resources Management Manual, three young interns have been hosted at the Executive Secretariat during the financial year. They were therefore offered the opportunity for an enriching professional immersion to develop their skills within the Institution.

CORAF's efforts regarding gender equity are also reflected in the composition of the Executive Secretariat's staff, with a slight predominance of women (51.16%).

With a median age of 43, reflecting solid experience and professional maturity, the Institution possesses major strengths to ensure the successful implementation of various projects and to mobilize new funding.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

RENEWAL OF STC MEMBERS

As part of an effort to renew and expand this expertise, CORAF has launched the recruitment of **five new STC members**, covering strategic specialties: agro-economics (Cameroon), biotechnology and genetics (Benin), fisheries and aquaculture (Senegal), sociology and rural development (Niger), and post-harvest technologies and loss reduction (Togo).

The renewal of the STC broadens its disciplinary and geographic spectrum, further enhancing CORAF's ability to draw on high-level expertise reflective of the realities of the region.

INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING: CORAF, A GLOBAL PLAYER IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

In 2025, CORAF cemented its position as a leader in agricultural research in the region and internationally. Its recognition as a founding member of the International Research Consortium at the organization's General Assembly in Brussels marks a major milestone. That distinction reinforces its leadership in Africa and opens up new opportunities for funding and international scientific collaboration.

Participation in CGIAR Science Week 2025 in Nairobi validated the technical architecture of the pan-African AARIISpace platform and defined a roadmap for its implementation, further enhancing the visibility of African scientific knowledge.

As part of the StEPPFoS project, CORAF has strengthened its role at the science-policy interface by consolidating governance mechanisms and supporting the development of evidence-based policies.

In addition, a high-level mission to Malabo provided opportunities for cooperation with CEMAC, particularly regarding the establishment of a national agricultural research center and the development of infrastructure projects.

Finally, CORAF contributed to the revision of the ECOWAP in Abidjan, helping to align regional policies with the new continental guidelines on sustainable agricultural development.

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS






The year 2025 has showed the resilience of CORAF in the face of an increasingly complex geopolitical and financial environment. The overall decline in official development assistance and security tensions in some member countries necessitated major strategic adjustments, both for the Executive Secretariat and for the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARSs).

Under the 2025 financial year, and in line with the strategic orientations for 2026 and beyond, four areas of focus stand out clearly for CORAF:

- I. Technology adoption:** approaches and strategies to accelerate adoption by end-users must be intensified, particularly with private-sector support and in the most vulnerable areas;
- II. Resource mobilization:** the funding gap for the 2023–2027 Operational Plan, estimated at approximately \$25 million, remains the most significant challenge, particularly for high-impact cross-border projects;
- III. Capitalizing on livelihood impacts:** documenting and highlighting the contribution of CORAF and its NARSs to improving people’s living conditions requires a strengthened capitalization effort;
- IV. Valorization and utilization of knowledge products:** the valorization of knowledge products must be significantly increased.

In such a challenging context, several major opportunities are emerging. The ongoing accreditation process with the Green Climate Fund represents an unprecedented driver of institutional and financial transformation for CORAF. At the same time, the private sector’s growing interest in scaling up agricultural technologies and innovations is opening up new routes to financing and operational partnerships.

For the year 2026, CORAF has outlined an ambitious plan centered on the following priorities:

-  Official launch of the second phase of the TARSPro program, strengthening the resilience of production systems across the region;
-  Finalization of the accreditation process with the Green Climate Fund, opening access to new climate finance mechanisms;
-  Intensification of priority thematic activities: integrated pest management, production systems and the circular economy, animal health and production, and integrated landscape management including precision agriculture, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and geographic information systems;
-  Technical support for Regional Economic Communities in the domestication and implementation of the Kampala Action Plan (new CAADP);
-  Creation of research fellowship opportunities for new students and young researchers as part of efforts to strengthen regional human capital.

These prospects reflect CORAF's commitment to turning every challenge into leverage for progress, while keeping agricultural innovation at the heart of its efforts to build resilient and inclusive food systems in West and Central Africa.

OUR MEMBERS



Benin: National Agronomic Research Institute of Benin (INRAB)



Burkina Faso: Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA)



Cameroon: Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD)



Cape Verde: National Institute for Agricultural Research and Development (INIDA)



Central African Republic: Central African Agricultural Research Institute (ICRA)



Congo: General Delegation for Scientific and Technical Research (DGRST/CRAL)



Côte d'Ivoire: National Center for Agronomic Research (CNRA)



Gabon: Institute of Agronomic and Forestry Research (IRAF)



The Gambia: National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)



Ghana: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)



Republic of Guinea: Agronomic Research Institute of Guinea (IRAG)



Guinea-Bissau: National Agricultural Research Institute (INPA)



Liberia: Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)



Mali: Institute of Rural Economy (IER)



Mauritania: National Center for Livestock and Veterinary Research (CNERV)



Mauritania: National Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CNRADA)



Niger: National Agronomic Research Institute of Niger (INRAN)



Nigeria: Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARC/N)



Democratic Republic of the Congo: National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research (INERA)



Senegal: Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA)



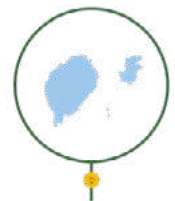
Sierra Leone: National Agricultural Research Coordinating Council (NARCC)



Chad: Chadian Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (ITRAD)



Togo: Togolese Institute of Agricultural Research (ITRA)



São Tomé and Príncipe

OUR NETWORK OF EXPERTS



CORAF EXPERTS DIRECTORY



Agronomic Engineer

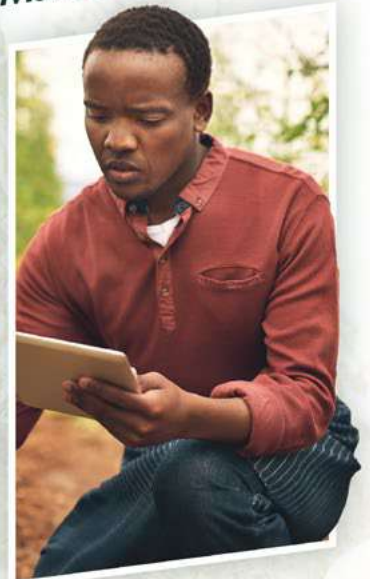


Agroecologist



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DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES



AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

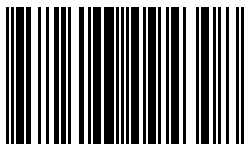


DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS









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