



LEADER DE L'INNOVATION
AGRICOLE EN AFRIQUE DE
L'OUEST ET DU CENTRE



Transforming Agriculture in West
and Central Africa:
CAADP XP4
Achievements
2019- 2023



SUMMARY

1.	A word from Executive Director.....	4
2.	About the CAADP-XP4 project.....	5
3.	Objective of the project.....	7
4.	Keyfigures.....	8
5.	Main activities.....	9
6.	Results achieved for each project output.....	10
7.	Thanks.....	17



Acronyms and Abbreviations

- AFAAS: African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
- AICCRA: Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa
- AIS-PPI: Agricultural Innovation Systems-Policy Practice Index
- ASARECA: Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
- ASTI: Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators
- CAADP: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
- CCARDESA: Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
- CIAT: International Center for Tropical Agriculture
- CORAF: West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
- CSA: Climate-Smart Agriculture
- DRI: Director of Research and Innovation
- ED: Executive Director
- EU: European Union
- FARA: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
- ICT: Information and Communication Technologies
- IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development
- IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute
- IPCC : Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- KM: Knowledge Management
- MEL: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
- NARI: National Agricultural Research Institutes
- NIAR: National Institute of Agricultural Research
- NARS: National Agricultural Research Systems
- PROPAC: Regional Platform of Central African Farmers' Organizations
- RECs: Regional Economic Communities
- ROCAFES: West African Network of Women Seed Entrepreneurs
- ROPPA: Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa
- XP4: Former Pillar IV

A word from Executive Director



As we approach the culmination of the CAADP-XP4 project, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable journey we've undertaken together.

Over the past years, this initiative has been a beacon of hope, driving agricultural innovation and resilience across West and Central Africa. Agriculture, the backbone of our economies, has witnessed the transformative changes, thanks to the dedication and collaboration of all involved.

During this final year, as we reflect on our achievements, we can celebrate a multitude of milestones. From strengthening institutional capacities to fostering strategic partnerships, each accomplishment has contributed to a more resilient and inclusive agricultural sector. Despite the challenges we've faced, from climate change to resource constraints, our collective determination has propelled us forward, ensuring that no obstacle is insurmountable.

Looking ahead, as we navigate the final stages of the project, our commitment remains unwavering. We are determined to maximize our impact, leaving a lasting legacy that will endure long after the project's conclusion. By harnessing the power of innovation and collaboration, we will continue to pave the way for a brighter agricultural future for the generations to come.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries who have been instrumental in making this project a success. Your unwavering support and dedication have been the driving force behind our achievements. Together, let us seize the opportunities that lie ahead and build upon the foundation we've laid, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for West and Central Africa's agricultural sector.

Dr Alioune FALL
Acting Executive Director

About the CAADP-XP4 project

Agriculture¹, providing two thirds of jobs and about one fourth of GDP, is the backbone of Africa's economy and a key driver of sustainable and inclusive growth. Agriculture remains the main source of food, health and nutrition security and more than 50% of employment and thus constitutes the main driver of socio-economic development in West and Central Africa (WCA). However, the Agricultural sector in Africa has been underperforming due to various reasons such as lack of coherent and conducive policies, inadequate capacities for effective identification, planning and implementation of needed interventions; poor incentives and resources; institutional weaknesses for service provision to the entire agricultural value chain, inadequate investment into the sector and poor access to input and output markets. Moreover, African countries face serious climate change challenges (IPCC, 2016) that compromise efforts to increase productivity using science, technology, and innovation. According to projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) crop yields in sub-Saharan Africa are

set to drop by 22% by 2050 due to effects of climate change (IPCC, 2014).

Three years into the implementation of SDGs and Malabo commitments, Africa's agricultural transformation agenda was not on track. It needed a substantial push in country-level actions which should be insulated from the serious threats posed by climate change. To this end, it was crucially essential to support countries in their planning and implementation of actions aimed at ensuring their agricultural transformation is inclusive, science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant.

To this effect, under the DESIRA initiative of the EU, CORAF has been mandated for West and Central Africa to implement the CAADP XP4 project whose purpose is to support AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF and FARA to improve their governance of agricultural research and innovation, and also assist the countries in Africa to develop capacity to take measures to improve resilience of farming systems to climate change.

¹Agriculture includes crop production, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture.

Periode

2019 >>> 2023

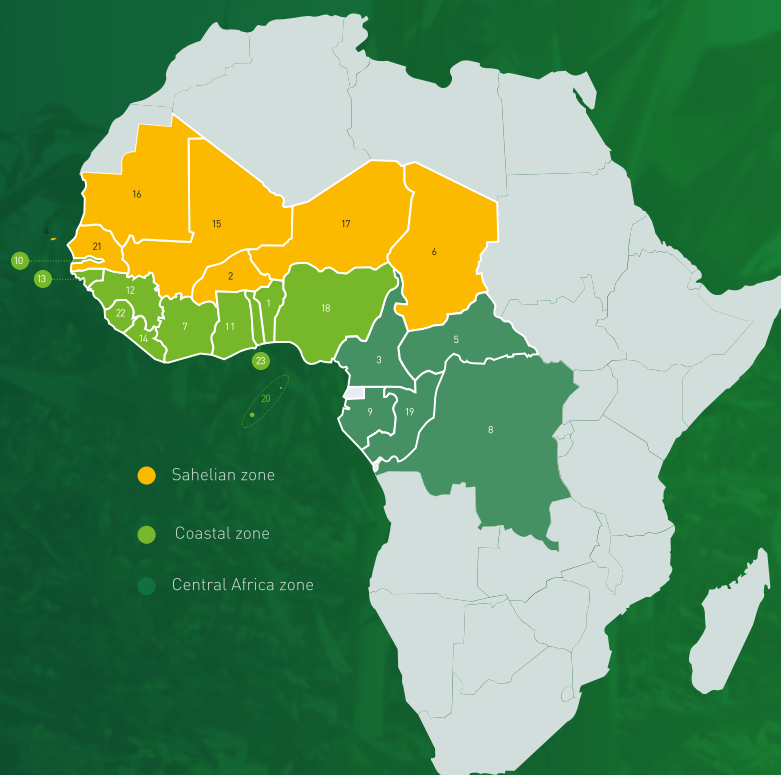
Budget

€ **5,7 Millions**

23

23 West and Central African countries

- 1 - Benin
- 2 - Burkina Faso
- 3 - Cameroon
- 4 - Cape Verde
- 5 - Central African Republic
- 6 - Chad
- 7 - Côte d'Ivoire
- 8 - Democratic Republic of Congo
- 9 - Gabon
- 10 - Gambia
- 11 - Ghana
- 12 - Guinea
- 13 - Guinea Bissau
- 14 - Liberia
- 15 - Mali
- 16 - Mauritania
- 17 - Niger
- 18 - Nigeria
- 19 - Republic of Congo
- 20 - Sa Tomé & Príncipe
- 21 - Senegal
- 22 - Sierra Leone
- 23 - Togo



Beneficiaries

Small farmers, agri-businesses, local young people and women, individual producers and breeders and producer groups, cooperatives, agricultural training centres, marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Objective of the project

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) ex-pillar IV

Transformation agricole pertinente pour le climat en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre.

Main objective



Increased contribution of research and innovation to the transformation of agriculture, leading to economic growth and inclusive sustainable development of countries in West and Central Africa (WCA)".

Specific objective



Improve the capacities of CORAF to strengthen and support agricultural knowledge and innovation partners at all levels in WCA to transform agriculture and food systems and to influence policy formulation through effective linkages to and use of climate relevant science, knowledge, and innovation.

Theory of change



Key figures



5 **policy dialogues** conducted for Agricultural Transformation



17 out of **19** targeted national organizations trained to influence policy formulation and implementation.



Development of **the electronic CORAF Experts Directory** (<https://experts.coraf.org>) to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among agricultural research and development experts.



Involvement of **20** researchers/scientists and **13** organizations participated in **UNFCCC-related** policy dialogues.



- Formalization of the West African Network of Women Seed Entrepreneurs (**ROAFES**)



- Established and strengthened communities of practice, such as CORAF's monitoring and evaluation community, and supported events like the **CAADP XP4 M&E** working group.



Training provided to **18** countries on policy analysis using tools like the Agricultural Innovation Systems-Policy Practice Index (**AIS-PPI**) tool.



16 **knowledge products**, including policy briefs, reports, and press releases, to promote program activities and achievements generated and disseminated.



9 **NARIs** to develop their knowledge management and communication strategies Identified and sponsored, certifying them as knowledge management experts.

Main Activities and Results to December 2023

Main activities

The project aims at delivering the following five outputs:

OUTPUT 1

Capacity of CORAF in competencies needed for the successful implementation of the program strengthened; Key activities are: (i) Training of staff to strengthen the internal capacities of CORAF and associated country-level partners; (ii) Procurement of some equipment to increase communication capacities as well as strengthening the enabling environment for effective implementation of the program.

OUTPUT 2

Enhanced collaboration among multi-stakeholders across sectors, geographies and agricultural value chains, with the following key activities: (i) Hire consultancy to promote and facilitate the formation of and operationalization of multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation; (ii) Conclude Memorandums of Understanding to mobilize international expertise to provide technical assistance to CORAF in specific thematic areas; and supporting demand-driven climate relevant innovation through South-South, North-South and North-South-South brokerage.

OUTPUT 3

Policy, Advocacy and Market Linkages developed and established. The key activities are: (i) Conduct trainings to strengthen the capacities of regional and national organizations in climate relevant policy analysis, formulation and advocacy; (ii) Hold training sessions through webinars and online learning and physical meetings to develop capacities for application of foresight; (iii) And hold workshops to bridge the science-policy nexus through inclusive and evidence-supported policy dialogues and strategic communication sensitive to climate change.

OUTPUT 4

Knowledge Management enhanced. The key activities include: Co-developing with other SROs a coordinated framework and infrastructure that makes available climate relevant STI to support NAKIS in learning and sharing opportunities and coordinating the development of climate relevant knowledge products and tools for dissemination to the last mile.

OUTPUT 5

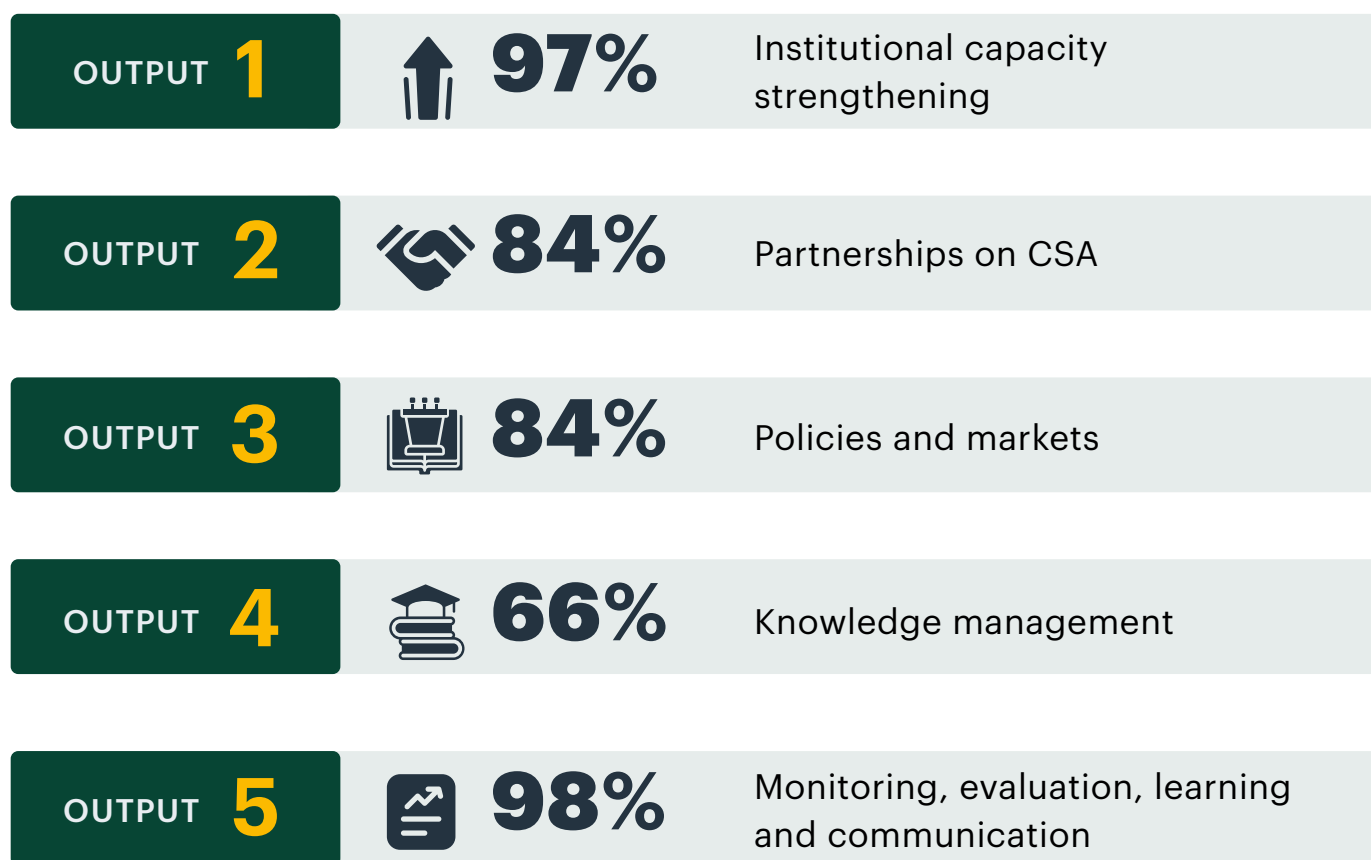
Effective planning, coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) & reporting. The main activities are: (i) Conducting planning and coordination meetings; (ii) as well as Data collection for MEL).

Results achieved for each project output

The cumulative progress reported for year 4 (2023) is estimated at:

91%

as the overall achievement for the 2023 milestones of the **five major outputs** of the project with contributions of individual outputs as follows:



OUTPUT 1

Strengthened capacity of the five African organizations to perform their individual mandates and to better work together, reinforcing one another's strengths under subsidiarity principles and partnering along integrated objectives.

The individual institutional and operational capacities of CORAF have been strengthened in the following ways: (i) recruitment and retention of critical human resources: CORAF has recruited two new CAADP XP4 project staff members in 2023:

- ▶ **a capacity development assistant**
- ▶ **and a gender assistant**

To address the expertise gap on knowledge management, CORAF has appointed a consultant in KM to partially support the project.



■ The quality of resources mobilized jointly by the five organizations is high (90%), (ii) upgrade and maintenance of operational systems notably Information and communication technologies (ICT), financial management, Knowledge Management (KM), programme management and MEL; and (iii) improved capacity to mobilise resources. The enhanced capacities have improved the effectiveness of CORAF in implementing the programme and in performing its mandates. It was on account of the improved capacities of CORAF that the World Bank assigned them coordination roles in regional food systems resilience programmes with a combined budget of USD 18 million, and other donors are more and more interested to partner with CORAF.

■ CORAF has strengthened its relations with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARIs) in West and Central Africa, with the development and signing of 20 individual Letters of Agreements with them. The CAADP XP4 project has a focal point in each of these 20 countries. These focal persons are in charge of the coordination of CAADP XP4 project at country level. They have created a network for knowledge and information sharing.



■ Mechanisms for strengthening collaboration among the five organizations -a key objective of the CAADP-XP4 programme- have been consolidated. These include joint planning and implementation of programme activities, joint resource mobilisation, joint monitoring and reporting of results as well as programme governance. The collaboration has extended beyond CAADP XP4 programme actions to cover other programmes and functions. The five organizations are working out modalities of functioning as a cohesive consortium with a common value proposition, strategy, brand, operating guidelines, and governance arrangement.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION ESTABLISHED AND IN OPERATION.

- The Programme promotes partnerships as a mechanism for achieving its objectives. The partnership dimensions promoted include multi-stakeholder, thematic, South-South, with European institutions, farmers organisations and the private sector. CORAF established a CSA alliance in Central Africa comprising members of country CSA focal teams in the sub-region. It revitalized the existing CSA alliance in West Africa. These regional multistakeholder alliances are platforms for sharing information, networking and coordination of CSA actions across countries. In this respect, CORAF has carried out a mapping of CSA initiatives in 9 West African countries. Mapping of CSA initiatives will continue in 11 other WCA countries. The two Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) alliances set up by CORAF have reflected on two programs to support their activities after the end of CAADP XP4 project: One CSA program for West African countries and another for central African countries. The concept note of the second program is being developed by a consultant.
- The CAADP XP4 project allows CORAF and DGs of NARS to hold annual meetings to reflect and discuss on emerging issues related to agricultural sector. After each meeting a policy brief is produced and shared to advocate on this issue. Trainings have been done on resource mobilization, advocacy and policy analysis using AIS PPI tools. All these trainings have strengthened capacities of CORAF's community.



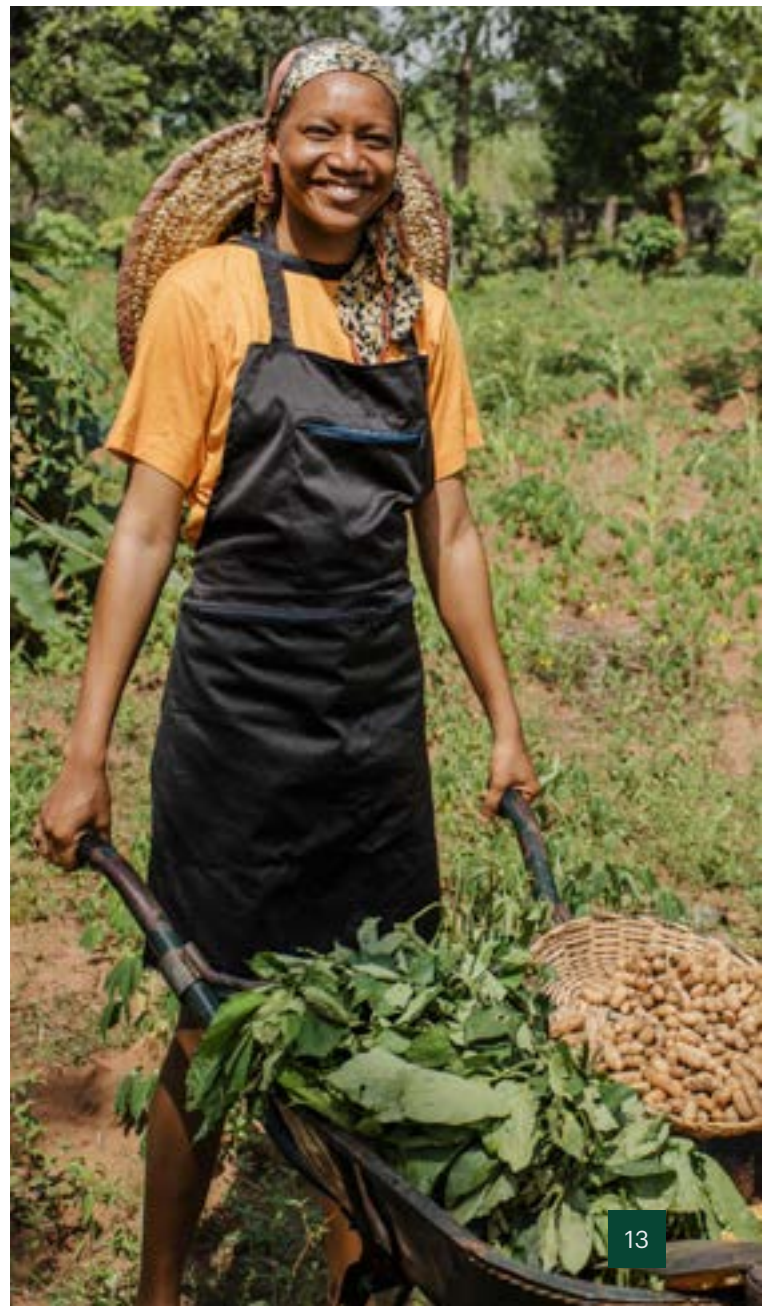
POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE-RELEVANT AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION FORMULATED; INVESTMENTS INCREASED, ADVOCACY AND MARKET LINKAGES STRENGTHENED.

- CORAF has strengthened and developed the capacities of **2 sub-regional and 16 national organizations in policy advocacy**. The regional capacities have been leveraged to build the capacities at national level. 4 regional level policy dialogues have been convened on means of harnessing climate-relevant science, markets, and trade to drive agricultural transformation in African regions and countries. Among these policy dialogues,

the first edition of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) leaders’ forum was held in Yaoundé from 19 to 21 October 2022 to discuss the trends in sub-regional priority agricultural research themes and evaluate their contribution towards increasing agricultural productivity and building a resilient food system in WCA. A policy brief was produced and shared with all stakeholders.

- The workstream on foresight picked momentum with the operationalization of the Africa Foresight Academy (AFA) which is designed to be the main vehicle for building capacities of national actors in foresight. Through partnership with the initiative “Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa” (AICCRA) of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CORAF has trained twenty people from NARIs on agriculture foresight analysis.

- Under the framework of CAADP-XP4 programme, CORAF has also signed a letter of agreement with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to collect ASTI (Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators) in 17 countries in WCA. ASTI data covers aspects related to the institutional composition of research systems at a country level, human resources, research focus by topic and agricultural research and development expenditures and funding. This data is essential for monitoring, and therefore achieving, one of the Malabo declaration commitments (to allocate 1% of agricultural GDP to agricultural research at country level).



OUTPUT 4

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION FOR DECISION SUPPORT, SHARING INNOVATION AND ADVOCACY RELATED TO CLIMATE-RELEVANT AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION.

- The collaboration among the five CAADP XP4 implementing organisations in KM and knowledge sharing has contributed significantly to strengthening the delivery of KM functions by the individual organisations and collectively. Regarding KM infrastructure, CORAF has revamped, updated and enhanced the functionalities of its KM platform which is also accessible via the FARADatInformS. Through the ongoing partnership with FARA, the CORAF expert database is made operational. The CORAF 's expert directory is an electronic regional directory of agricultural research and development experts in West and Central Africa. This tool, developed in collaboration with FARA, is currently being finalized. Eventually, it will enable to pool together in a single database a wide range of expert biodata in the agricultural and food system. The web base electronic platform is interoperable with the One developed by FARA. CORAF in collaboration with FARA is planning a presentation and training workshop on January 31, 2024, on the expert directory for the various KM and M&E focal points of the CAADP XP4 consortium

OUTPUT 5

EFFECTIVE PLANNING, COORDINATION, MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING (MEL) AND REPORTING.

- After, the mid-term review (MTR) of CAADP XP4 programme, the M&E framework was reviewed and updated to revise the indicator targets, and to make the framework gender and youth responsive. The changes were integrated in the CAADP-XP4 MEL.
- CORAF and FARA have signed a letter of agreement to upgrade the CAADP XP4 MEL system in order to strengthen planning, tracking progress and reporting. Staff capacities of both parties are being enhanced in order to enable effective operationalisation of an interoperable CAADPXP4 MEL system.



CORAF is leading CAADP-XP4 Gender TWG. Key activities have been implemented (see full report). Now ASARECA and CCARDESA have a good gender policy and strategy. A physical training on Gender and CSA was conducted for Gender Focal Persons of 19 National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), including Gender Action Plan developed for each NARS; Gender side event was organized by CCARDESA under CAADP-XP4 during FARA science week in Durban to promote gender and celebrate the successes of women and youth in agribusiness including those using climate-smart initiatives and technologies for empowerment in partnership with the private sector, and education fields. Workshop on Women's Leadership in Agriculture and Climate Research, organized in collaboration with AICCRA Gender Bureau, 27 female and 1 male researcher from Eastern, Western, Central, and South African regions, and 1 from Northern America have attended; Gender and nutrition sensitive Technologies Market organized to showcase and facilitate scaling of proven technologies to enhance food productivity in the countries; Development of start-ups and agribusiness for women and youth with climate smart technologies for empowerment in partnership with private sector: seed business training was conducted in few countries for women and youth empowerment on production, processing and marketing. CHALLENGES: there was no budget allocation for implementation of CAADP-XP4 gender workplan, making difficulties to implement the workplan in the various regions.



Thanks

The CAADP-XP4 project was carried out by CORAF in partnership with the European Union through IFAD. The project team is immensely grateful for the programmatic and technical support provided by these partners throughout the project life cycle of the project. Without them, CAADP-XP4 would not have been able to achieve the results described here and elsewhere.

We have worked with 23 National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARI), 4 implementing partners (AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, FARA), 2 Regional Farmers Organizations (PROPAC and ROPPA), Extension Services in West and Central Africa, 3 RECs, etc...

Our thanks to all our technical and strategic partners in the field!



CAADP

XP4
PROGRAMME



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About CORAF

CORAF, a regional organisation of national agricultural research systems from twenty-three countries in West and Central Africa, is mandated to coordinate the implementation of regional agricultural research policies as defined by governments. Established in 1987 with its Executive Secretariat in Dakar, Senegal, CORAF's main objective is to improve livelihoods in West and Central Africa by achieving sustainable improvements in agricultural production and productivity and promoting market competitiveness.

For more information on CORAF, visit www.coraf.org

