

Regional CSA Alliances and platforms: Information sheet

The West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA)

Name: West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA).

Covered region / countries: West Africa (15 countries) + Chad and Mauritania = the 17 countries of the 17 countries of the ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS¹ region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Bissau-Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Status: Officially established and launched, to be operationalized.

Core documents:

- WASCAA (2015), *West Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance: Framework document*, WACSAA, High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholders in West Africa (Bamako, Mali, 15-18 June 2015), ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, Hub Rural, USAID, ASDI, European Union, Africa Lead, UNOPS, June 2015: 19 p.
- ECOWAS (2015), *Intervention Framework for the Development of Climate-Smart Agriculture under the West Africa Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP) implementation Process*. High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholders in West Africa (Bamako, 15-18 June 2015), ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, Hub Rural, USAID, ASDI, European Union, Africa Lead, UNOPS, June 2015: 65 p.
- *West Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Declaration*, High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholders in West Africa (Bamako, Mali, 15-18 June 2015);
- *Civil Society Organizations Declaration*, High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholders in West Africa (Bamako, Mali, 15-18 June 2015).

Context: Development of the *ECOWAS Intervention Framework for the Development of Climate-Smart Agriculture under the West Africa Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP) implementation Process*, to mainstream CSA into the regional agricultural policy and the regional and national agricultural investment programs (RAIP and NAIPs).

Objective of the Alliance: To support the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP Intervention Framework for CSA, by providing a consultation, coordination, convergence, capitalization and monitoring mechanism for the initiatives of the members of the Alliance

Members: Divided into two colleges:

- *For the college of beneficiaries:* the 17 countries of the ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Bissau-Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad and Togo), ROPPA, RBM, APSS, CORET, RECAO, REPAO, WILDAF/FEDDAF, AFAO/WAWA, POSCAO, ECOWAS, and UEMOA;
- *For the college of partners:* CILSS (ES, CRA and INSAH), CORAF/WECARD, IFPRI/CGIAR, CCAFS/CGIAR, Africa Rice, IUCN, GWP/WA, CARE International, ENDA, Hub Rural, FAO, the European Union, UNOPS, GIZ ASDI, NEPAD/AU, and USAID.

¹ Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) / West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) / Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

Governance:

- *Alliance Members*: Ensure the implementation and monitoring of their individual initiatives contributing to the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP Intervention Framework for CSA;
- *Working Groups*: The mechanism for collective consultation and monitoring of the implementation of the Intervention Framework. Four Working groups: (i) Investments for CSA, (ii) Institutions for CSA, (iii) Resources for CSA, and (iv) Partnerships for CSA.
- *Annual Meeting*: The mechanism for consultation and collective monitoring of the implementation of the intervention framework;
- *Steering Committee*: The management mechanism of the Intervention Framework;
- *Facilitation Unit*: The facilitation mechanism of the Alliance, to facilitate consultations, coordination, convergence, implementation, monitoring and management of the Intervention Framework.

Timeline / Key events:

- 1) The initial regional consultation held in August 2011 in Dakar, Senegal on behalf of ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS with the support of USAID, which launched the regional process to integrate CSA into the regional and national agricultural investments programs of the ECOWAP/CAADP, and establishing the Support and Monitoring group of this process;
- 2) The regional study led by CILSS, in 2012-2013, on behalf of ECOWAS and UEMOA with technical facilitation by Hub Rural, which identified the gaps and synergies of CSA initiatives in West Africa and laid the foundation for the convergence and coordination of CSA initiatives in technical, scientific, institutional, policy, and financial areas;
- 3) The regional consultation of stakeholders of existing CSA initiatives in West Africa, conducted in November 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where participants adopted the provisional framework document of an alliance of CSA stakeholders in West Africa and called for an inclusive and participatory process to adopt an Intervention Framework for CSA in the frame of the ECOWAP/CAADP implementation process;
- 4) The national communications elaborated in the seventeen countries of the ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS region jointly by the ministries in charge of agriculture (NAIP focal point), environment (UNFCCC focal point / NAPA and NAP), and water resources (IWRM focal point), on integrating CSA into the NAIPs, and validated with non-State actors;
- 5) The six regional thematic syntheses conducted by regional experts on behalf of ECOWAS with technical facilitation by Hub Rural highlighting the progress and challenges in key intervention areas of CSA in West Africa (climate data and services; funding mechanisms for CSA; research and extension for CSA scientific and local knowledge; CSA local planning and scaling up; and inter-sectoral coherence and coordination between agriculture, water and climate change policies and programs);
- 6) The five regional sectoral syntheses conducted by CGIAR Centers, with coordination by CCAFS and technical facilitation by Hub Rural, which evaluated the scientific, policy, and financial landscape of CSA in West Africa for the five key agricultural subsectors (crop production; livestock and pastoralism; forestry and agro-forestry; fisheries and aquaculture; and water resources management);
- 7) The definition of an Intervention Framework for CSA under the West Africa Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP) implementation process, based on the above mentioned studies and

processes (i.e. national communications, regional thematic synthesis, regional sectoral synthesis, conclusions and recommendations from regional consultation meetings);

- 8) The meeting of non-State stakeholders, prior to the High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholders in West Africa, where non-State stakeholders have adopted a joint declaration towards the ECOWAP/CAADP Intervention Framework for CSA and the West Africa Alliance for CSA;
- 9) The ECOWAS / UEMOA / CILSS High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholders in West Africa (Bamako, 15-18 June 2015), to adopt the CSA Intervention Framework and launch the West Africa CSA Alliance;
- 10) On the eve of COP 21, in Dakar, Senegal, 16 November 2015, recommendation of the ECOWAS Ministerial Specialized Technical Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources to implement promptly the intervention framework adopted in Bamako in June 2015. It recognized the Alliance for climate smart agriculture as the unifying framework for the coordination and convergence of interventions to support the Member States and the different actors in the field of climate adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector at large. It called on the ECOWAS Commission to support the implementation of the Alliance's facilitation;
- 11) Recommendations on CSA, included in the proposed Regional Partnership Compact for the implementation of ECOWAP / CAADP 2025, adopted at the International Conference on West African Agriculture, held in Dakar (Senegal), 17 to 19 November 2015;
- 12) Under the "focus day" "Agriculture" side event held during COP 21 in Paris, December 1, 2016, ECOWAS presented the Regional Initiative "Promotion of Smart Agriculture Towards Climate Change: Transitioning Towards West Africa Agro-ecology", in the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda ²;
- 13) To maintain the dynamic generated in Paris in December 2015, on Thursday 28 April, 2016, ECOWAS participation at Morocco's International Agricultural Show in Meknes, in the meeting "What actions for agriculture and food security in the run-up to COP22". During this event, the importance that Moroccan Presidency of COP22 in Marrakesh wishes to give to agriculture at COP22 was presented and was thus a first step on the road from COP21 to COP22. The Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Morocco led the conversation around a new approach, Triple A (AAA) or Adaptation of African Agriculture, which should be the focus of the COP22, and should secure funding to support African climate agricultural initiatives;
- 14) Finally, during the regional workshop to launch the development process of the 2nd generation NAIPs and RAIP, held in Abidjan from May 30 to June 2, 2016, validation of the guidelines for the formulation of the renewed NAIPs and RAIP, in line with the recommendations adopted in November 2015 in Dakar, taking into account issues related with CSA, like climate change adaptation, agricultural risk management, resilience, etc.

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² For more information, cf. Text box in Annex.

Annex

The regional initiative “**Promotion of Smart Agriculture towards Climate Change and agro-ecology transition in West Africa**”, presented by ECOWAS during COP 21 in the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, is focused on 15 West-African countries. The main objective is to support the transition towards agro-ecology in West Africa to reinforce the resilience of vulnerable populations. This initiative includes two steps: firstly, the spread of best practices through public policies (involvement of public services in charge of agricultural and environmental policies) and, subsequently, farmers' training and support, by public and NGOs operators, and producer organisations.

Means of achievement:

- Creation of a platform to share knowledge: capitalisation of technics and ecology intensive practices, data on investments, and data on carbon sequestration.
- Promotion of these practices through agro-meteorological support: climate modelling and of its impacts on agriculture, strengthening of the production and dissemination of information systems.
- Production and dissemination of best practices.
- Supporting the scale-up of best practices: the use of agroforestry species with carbon sequestration capacities, storm water management, soil regeneration and fertilization.
- Reinforcement of national and regional capacity building in policies and strategies: promotion of best practices in programmes and projects, trainings.
- Mobilizing financial and technical resources: access to the International Climate Fund (primary channel of climate change finance), creation of expert pools.

Levels of Action

- Regional: capacity building, climate data, resource mobilisation, coordination between projects and partners;
- National: creation of an expert pool to mobilize resources and reinforce institutional capacities;
- Local: implementation of AIC technical packages by agricultural operators and community-based organisations.

The initiative is conducted by the ECOWAS Commission, and implemented under the auspices of the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food. The financial partners include the European Union, the World Bank, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of the African Union.

Launching this initiative, the ECOWAS Commission invited the international community to:

- Support the West African region and ECOWAS Commission in the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP reviewed after 10 years;
- Support the West Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance (WACSAA), set up in June 2015 during the high-level forum of Bamako;
- Support the efforts to integrate agriculture in the UNFCCC negotiations, and to implement financing mechanisms through international windows dedicated to the climate;
- Strengthen the mobilization of technical and financial partners to finance (i) scaling up climate smart agriculture and agro ecology practices, (ii) the implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted by the West African countries at COP21, and (iii) scientific research on innovative techniques for food security, adaptation to climate change impacts and their mitigation.