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Accelerating ECOWAP/CAADP implementation

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Introduction

1. This document present some information notes ("briefs") to submit to the experts and Ministers on the regional initiatives and projects currently developed under ECOWAP:

- 1. Strategy towards local-level food security in West Africa – “Zero Hunger”;**
- 2. Regional Food Security Reserve ;**
- 3. Regional offensive for sustainable rice production in West Africa;**
- 4. Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative - Sahel and West Africa / « AGIR ».**

2. Subsequently, he includes summary notes on the regional programs implemented to accelerate the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP, which are to be validated by the SMC-AEWR, including:

- 5. Regional Social Safety Net Support Program in West Africa;**
- 6. Regional Program to Support Agricultural Intensification and Pastoral West Africa;**
- 7. Regional Program to Support the Regulation of West African Markets.**

I. Strategy towards local-level food security in West Africa – “Zero Hunger”

1.1 Progress

3. The principle of the initiative was approved by the Ministerial Committee of September 2012, which has welcomed it with the hope that it will allow to develop more effective and renewed approaches in the context of the implementation of the NAIPs and the RAIP. The next steps for the implementation of this process would be to formulate an inclusive regional strategy able to mobilize all stakeholders, and providing a governance framework to ensure consistency and relevance of the interventions of all public, socio-professional and non-governmental actors.

4. From an operational point of view, at the request of the ECOWAS Commission and as part of an agreement with the Government of Germany, FAO will provide assistance for the “Establishing a Hunger-free initiative for West Africa” project (GCP/RAF/476/GER). The Project (total budget: US\$ 5,422,600, including € 1,930,812 of funding from the German government and US\$ 3 million contribution of ECOWAS) support the Commission, Member States and non-governmental partners to work for a “hunger free” West Africa. As part of the "Zero Hunger" initiative, this project will support specific program elements related to the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP, and continued efforts in the region in terms of nutrition. It will especially help to strengthen the collaboration of different sectors and stakeholders in this field. In the longer term, the project will work to maintain high-level issues of food security, nutrition and right-to-food in the agenda of the governing bodies of ECOWAS and its member countries and to facilitate the identification of a post 2015 target (after the end of the MDGs political commitment).

1.2 Outlook

5. In a first step, it is expected to hold an inception workshop for the “Establishing a Hunger-free Initiative for West Africa” project, whose objectives are :

- Common understanding by all essential stakeholders on the nature of the hunger-free initiative, how it can add value to regional and country level FSN efforts and how it relates to efforts with similar objective ;
- Define involvement of actors in the hunger-free initiative.

6. Discussions between ECOWAS and FAO are still to be held to define some project implementation and management issues. From late 2013 / early 2014, as part of this project it is planned to develop the following actions:

- Definition of the strategy and general framework for hunger free West Africa, through a participatory and inclusive multi-stakeholder process, including: (i) building a framework that defines how actors state and non-state can work together to implement PRIA and NDG, (ii) improving the coordination of food security and nutrition, including strengthening synergies with the SUN Movement ("Scaling Up Nutrition") and the REACH partnership ("Renewed efforts Against Child Hunger"), and (iii) strengthening the capacity of non-governmental actors and creating a space for dialogue on food security and nutrition in link with the ECOWAS and national parliaments, professional organizations and civil society.
- development and implementation of strategies combining social protection and agriculture (production dimension);
- technical support to countries for integration of nutrition considerations in national and regional agricultural investment plans and budget policies.

1.3 Risks, Challenges and Issues

- **Issue: How to go to a ECOWAP "pro-resilience"?** Key questions: (i) clarify the concept of resilience and the attributes of a policy aimed at strengthening, (ii) define how to improve consideration of risks in the current working agenda of NAIPs and RAIP, and (iii) determine how to target specific measures to vulnerable rural populations.
- **Difficulty: no comprehensive references for all countries,** to provide a deeper understanding of the vulnerability of households, causes and manifestations of this vulnerability.

II. Regional Food Security Reserve

1.4 Progress

7. Following the decisions taken in Abidjan in September 2012 at the Meeting of Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, who helped define the contours of the future reserve, the 42th Session of the Conference Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, held on 27 and 28 February 2013 in Yamoussoukro, specifically oriented the President of the Commission to take all appropriate arrangements for the actual start of the regional food reserve.

8. The European Union (EU) willing to support ECOWAS in the implementation of regional food reserve and considering support to implement it, a first proposal was produced, in line with the decisions of the region and integrating regulatory and procedural requirements of the European Commission (EC). The dialogue between the EC and regional stakeholders have led to focus the project support around four components:

- Establishment and operation of regional reserve (C1);
- Streamlining national storage systems and networking (RESOGEST) (C2);
- Support and networking of local-level or decentralized storage systems, driven by farmers' organizations, civil society and local communities (C3);
- Support for the "vulnerability" dimension in the development of information systems and tools (ECOAGRIS ; enhanced harmonized analysis framework) and strengthening of decision mechanisms (C4/C5).

9. The Regional food reserve should start with a first physical inventory of 31,000 tons of cereals and 3,000 tons of nutritional products (enriched flour). This phase will be funded by the European Union with 56 million euros, of which € 18 million are allocated to RIP. The proposal, formulated as a "Project Identification Sheet" (PIS) , was approved by the EC, and led to the development of a detailed project document . Thus, a Financing Proposal (FP, or "Action Programme") is currently being finalized. In this context, the Spanish Cooperation (AECID) and the French Development Agency (AFD) were contacted by EC to consider defining the content of their actual interventions to complement the support of the European Commission, as these agencies also finance other projects, in complementarity or addition to the funding provided by the EU Commission.

10. It is proposed that the financing agreement to be signed with the ECOWAS Commission will be basically implemented through:

- a Delegation Agreement with one (or more) Member state agency(ies) of the EU, who will implement the project activities through contracts signed with various partners, i.e. Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) for C1 and C5 component, and national agencies in charge of food reserves for component C2;
- a service contract with the Regional Centre Agrhyment (CILSS) for C4 component.

11. Meanwhile, the ECOWAS Commission continued its efforts to mobilize technical and financial partners to support the efforts of the region. Thus DAEWR maintained dialogue with the G20 Technical Group to continue to make the G20 aware on the implementation process of the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR).

1.5 Outlook

12. By the end of 2013, in collaboration with the stakeholders of the RFSR project (EU, AECID, AFD, CILSS), it will be necessary to finalize the preparation of the project and progress in the formulation of the delegation agreements and/or service contracts. In this perspective, it is necessary to clarify the terms of management and monitoring of the implementation (including the EU delegations, the selected delegates agencies [AECID, AFD], the Agrhyment Regional Centre, and the RFAA).

13. In addition, end of 2013/early 2014, the next steps in the operationalization of the regional food security reserve should initiate under the responsibility of the RFAA based in Lomé, where the RFSR Technical Unit will be located:

- installation of the Technical Management Unit of the Reserve in the RFAA;
- implementation of the governance bodies;
- preparation and adoption of the procedures manual;
- finalizing the financial arrangements for the first year of implementation of the Reserve;
- preparation of service contracts with national structures in charge of food reserve management on behalf of the regional reserve ;
- consideration of legal aspects of the process (including arrangements related to the establishment of the Technical Unit and the management bodies of the Reserve, creation of the Management Committee of the Reserve, preparation and signing of a quadripartite agreement between ECOWAS , UEMOA , CILSS and RESOGEST, clarifying roles, responsibilities and commitments of each institution, derogatory acts for the reserve to duty-free products import from the international market, contractual agreement with EBID which will house the emergency Response Fund, within the ECOWADF).

14. Volumes of products indicated for starting (31,000T) are those set on EC funding. As it will probably be difficult to mobilize EU funding in the first half of 2014, the contribution of ECOWAS budget is expected to go further and engage quickly in purchases of products.

1.6 Risks, Challenges and Issues

Risks and Assumptions:

- Risks of duplication of interventions at the regional level ;
- Necessity for regional actors to speak with one voice with partners.

Issues and Challenges

15. Member states of ECOWAS pledged to fund the reserve mechanism on the basis of import duties. In this perspective, to ensure a sustainable financing mechanism for the years following the installation of the reserve, it will be important to seek the necessary decisions from the statutory bodies of the ECOWAS, especially in the ongoing process of discussion and adoption of the Integration Community Levy (ICL).

16. The DAERE will also continue to conduct financial negotiations with the various stakeholders (including UEMOA and G20 partners, particularly the EU). This will include continuing, in connection with various partners, seeking support to develop the “Financial Stock” component of the regional reserve, in addition to the resources made available by the ECOWAS Commission alone.

17. Finally, it will be important to ensure :

- effective mobilization of national contributions (based on the commitments made during the CTS- AOCI in Abidjan), and to implement the decisions taken by the RESOGEST (especially commitments for pooling part of national reserves);
- that national and local dimensions of reserves are fully integrated into the programs building resilience (including in the programming of the 11th EDF in the members states), in line with the regional strategy and to complement the support provided by the regional level;
- that the “animal feed” component will be taken into account in the implementation of the regional reserve.

III. Regional offensive for sustainable rice production in West Africa

1.7 Progress

18. Following the establishment of a Regional Task Force to conduct the definition of a regional strategy for the development of the rice sector in West Africa, the terms of reference for a “Feasibility Study interventions targeted to boost regional rice sector in West Africa for sustained economic growth” were adopted. With the support of GIZ, it is expected that the work will be performed under the supervision of a pool of experts from ECOWAS, by a team of two consultants, namely:

- an agricultural economist - markets and value chains expert, and political/economic analysis;
- an agricultural specialist - technical expert in rice production and processing, with economic knowledge.

19. The study is to be conducted during the months of September and October 2013.

1.8 Outlook

20. Subsequently, the next steps are expected as follows:

- Validation of the technical and financial proposals of the feasibility study (end 2013);
- Preparation of a Business Meeting to fund the regional offensive.

1.9 Risks, Challenges and Issues

Constraints and threats

- Low mechanization of production systems and processing;
- Low development of a regional market;
- Climate change and variability;
- Inconsistency of sectoral policies;
- Political instability.

Issues and Challenges

21. The major challenge for West Africa is increasing regional rice production significantly and sustainably, to meet a growing demand. Such a challenge raises a series of questions for which the feasibility study should provide answers:

- What rice cropping and production systems to promote to achieve this goal?
- How to reconcile, in the medium and long terms, the lack of security of the regional market (low protection, tax exemption on imports) with a clear strategy to boost the regional production in a sustained and sustainable manner? What kinds of incentives to promote in terms of policy instruments, production factors, finance, research and agricultural extension services, and coordination, to support ongoing initiatives at both national and regional levels?
- How to improve fluidity of the regional market of community rice, in terms of promotion of value chains (taking into account the segmentation of the demand), implementation of regulation/regulatory instruments?

IV. Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative - Sahel and West Africa / « AGIR »

1.10 Progress

22. The official launch of the “Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative - Sahel and West Africa (AGIR)” in the framework of the 18th meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) in Ouagadougou in December 2012, resulted in the adoption of a joint declaration which constitutes the political framework of the Alliance. This joint statement stated that in view of the RPCA meeting of April 2013, stakeholders of the Alliance agreed to meet before to adopt, on the basis of prior consultation process already started, a regional road map including the main quantitative objectives, specific objectives, priorities and monitoring and evaluation and impact indicators.

23. Early 2013, the following steps were taken :

- February-March 2013 : Work of the Senior Experts Group (SEG), responsible for the completion of the regional roadmap - Meeting of SEG on 8-9 March 2013 in Lome (Togo) ;
- April 8, 2013 (Paris, OECD headquarters): Second Meeting of the SEG for review and validation of the regional roadmap;
- April 9, 2013 (Paris, OECD headquarters): consultation between technical and financial partners, stakeholders of the Alliance, and formal adoption of the regional roadmap by all stakeholders during the restricted meeting of RPCA.

24. The adopted roadmap is a regional policy framework of the Alliance. At the regional level, the Alliance relies on the Food Crises Prevention Network (RPCA), under the joint political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA. Joint space of dialogue, RPCA is the consultative platform for monitoring and evaluation of the Alliance. The proposals and recommendations from RPCA are subject to decision-making bodies of ECOWAS (SMC-AEWR) and UEMOA (CHN-SA). A forum to discuss the Alliance issues is dedicated at the two annual meetings of RPCA (April and December).

25. Based on the principle of subsidiarity between the regional and national levels, stakeholders agreed to decline the regional roadmap at the national level into “Country Resilience Priorities” (PRP), through processes of “Country Inclusive Dialogue”. More specifically, the roadmap has confirmed that it was not to engage in new country programming process, parallel to ECOWAP / CAADP, but:

- carry out an integrated and inclusive analysis of existing policies, programs and dialogue platforms;
- from the integrated analysis, complete, if necessary, the existing programs by identifying the relevant priorities contributing to strengthening the resilience of households, families and vulnerable communities;
- and formulate the “Country Resilience Priorities”.

26. The “country inclusive dialogues” should therefore be based on the existing strategies, policies and programs, including NAIP, and those covered by other sectoral policies that contribute to resilience (health and nutrition, social affairs, education, water, sanitation, etc.). Inclusive and multisectoral nature of this process will require close involvement of all stakeholders: government departments concerned with resilience (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, environment, health, education, social affairs, water, sanitation, family planning, disaster risk reduction, etc.),

farmer organizations, civil society and private sector, local governments, technical and financial partners, etc.

27. In June 2013, the ECOWAS, on behalf of the three regional organizations, sent a letter to inform about this process all the ministers of food and agriculture of the 17 member states of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS.

28. For the implementation of the agenda of the Alliance, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS decided to implement a small Technical Unit under the guidance of ECOWAS and UEMOA. This Technical Unit, hosted within the CILSS, will provide backing for and facilitates the implementation of the Regional Roadmap. More specifically, its mission involves:

- providing information and advocacy at country and regional levels;
- supporting and facilitating inclusive dialogue for the formulation of national priorities and fostering synergy between country level stakeholders;
- co-ordinating and facilitating the operational implementation of regional priorities;
- monitoring the implementation of priorities and sharing and making use of the lessons learned;
- co-ordinating (in collaboration with the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat) the organization of the Alliance's monitoring and orientation meetings.

29. CILSS has been asked to provide technical arrangement and terms of references, and perform a financial assessment of the functioning of the Unit. Based on a CILSS-ECOWAS-UEMOA tripartite agreement on these aspects, the EU will support its implementation, including the commitment of three experts, corresponding to the following positions:

- an expert in food and nutrition security, ensuring the coordination of the Technical Unit;
- an expert in economic modeling and project engineering;
- an expert in planning, monitoring, evaluation and capitalization - diffusion experiments .

30. A recruitment notice was issued on 30 May 2013. Applications received by the deadline set for 30 June has already passed through a screening process, which will soon lead to selection interviews. Recently, a regional workshop was held in Cotonou on 28-30 August, which main results were:

- Review and validation of the methodological tools for the implementation of the national inclusive dialogue, including: (i) Methodological Guide to conduct the "Country Inclusive Dialogue", (ii) Guidelines for reading policies and programs contributing to resilience, and (iii) Indicative template of the "Country Resilience Priorities" (PRP-AGIR) report;
- Adoption of a timetable for the implementation of the country process;
- Information and strengthening of national ownership, as well as to promotion of the establishment of national platforms for dialogue and orientation of AGIR country process.

1.11 Outlook

31. End 2013 - early 2014, it will be necessary to monitor the implementation of the planned agenda, including the following steps:

- Recruitment of experts comprising the AGIR TU;
- Start of support to countries to identify their "Resilience" priorities.

32. To accelerate the application at the country level of the regional roadmap of the Alliance, and provide States with common methodological basis for achieving inclusive dialogue, the methodological document ("Guide") and analytical frameworks should be finalized as soon as possible, so that the AGIR TU can start as soon as possible their interventions in countries wishing to develop the approach proposed by the Alliance. End November 2013, during the 29th Annual RPCA meeting held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the AGIR Senior Experts' Group will review progress made in the implementation of AGIR, and in consultation with donors, program the activities to be undertaken in 2014.

1.12 Risks, Challenges and Issues

Risks and Assumptions, related with:

- Poor adhesion by states (because of an agenda somewhat different from orientations adopted until recently under the ECOWAP/CAADP process) and low capacity to mobilize international aid (by ECOWAS and States).
- Poor implementation capacity, linked with no well-developed natural host institutions within ECOWAS, or at the state level.

Conditions to meet to roll out the AGIR agenda effectively and efficiently:

- National leadership and coordination;
- Ability to monitor the AGIR Regional Technical Unit;
- Links to ensure coherence with regional programs.

V. Regional Social Safety Net Support Program in West Africa

1.13 Strategic Orientation

33. This Regional Social Safety Net Support Program falls under the pursuit of the specific objective № 3 of the regional investment plan: “to contribute to ensuring that the food needs of the vulnerable populations are covered and to reducing the structural vulnerability of the populations in both rural and urban areas”. It aims in particular to promote preventive social safety net programs among populations vulnerable to food insecurity, and combat early childhood malnutrition and lessen vulnerability to hazards.

1.14 Intervention Rationale

Overall Objective	Specific Objective	Outcomes	Activities
Reduce food and nutritional insecurity and promote sustainable access to food within ECOWAS.	National social safety net programs aiming to strengthen households’ and communities’ resilience and more specifically lessen early childhood malnutrition shall be tested, adapted and rolled out on the large scale by several states in the region.	Outcome 1: At least half the states in the region shall be able to formulate, implement and assess preventive social safety nets within their crisis prevention and management systems.	Activity 1.1 – Establish a network to pool experience and information on the regional level.
			Activity 1.2 – Co-finance innovative operations involving social safety net programs implemented in the region.
			Activity 1.3 – Co-finance analysis and documentation initiatives and impact assessments covering social safety net programs implemented in the region.
			Activity 1.4 – Set up a capacity building program for state actors to design, steer, coordinate and implement social safety net programs and policies.
		Outcome 2: ECOWAS shall have established regional standards for the design and implementation of social safety net programs and tested an incentive scheme to promote them.	Activity 2.1 – Establish a SSN Task Force with the mandate of establishing regional standards on the design of social safety nets.
			Activity 2.2 – ECOWAS activates a mechanism by which to co-finance national social safety net programs.

1.15 Stakeholders and beneficiaries

34. The end beneficiaries of the program are poor and very poor populations in West Africa, who will be targeted by the social safety nets implemented in the framework of the co-financing program, and ultimately and more broadly all vulnerable populations who will

benefit from the national programs and policies implemented based on the experiments in the region analyzed and documented in the program. In addition to direct and indirect beneficiary populations, the program is designed to build the capacity of national and regional public institutions to design, coordinate, steer, implement and evaluate social safety net and social protection programs and policies. These policies aim to contribute significantly to the fight against poverty and foster the economic and social integration of the poor.

35. Stakeholders are located at several levels:

- On the regional scale: the ECOWAS Commission and its specialized institution for health and nutrition, WAHO, the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food, on which RAIP implementation relies; and the other regional institutions involved in food security, food crisis prevention and management, and improving the resilience of populations and communities, and especially: UEMOA and CILSS on which some of the implementation of certain activities relies.
- On the national scale: member states are direct stakeholders in the program, but the program also involves all stakeholders concerned by the establishment and deployment of social safety nets: NGOs, international organizations within the United Nations system, farmers' organizations, local governments, the private sector, etc.

36. On the operational level, the program will mobilize: regional institutions, member states, civil society organizations, and the private sector (in particular the banking sector, and shops in the case of certain programs, food vouchers, for example).

1.16 Program Implementation

37. This program will be steered by RAAF, and implementation will notably be coordinated by the "social safety net" and "innovative operations" program officers. The effective allocation of responsibilities within the RAAF team will be established after program officers have been hired, and in particular the coordinator of the technical team under whose responsibility the program officers will work. RAAF operating procedures and the mobilization of ECOWADF in particular will be established in early 2014, for the establishment of programs according to clearly defined administrative and financial modalities.

1.17 Overall program cost

38. Over 5 years, the ECOWAS budget contribution to finance activities (Act 1.1, 1.4 and 2.1), and to ECOWAS co-funding for innovative operations (Acts 1.2), capitalization and impact assessments (Acts 1.3) and for a mechanism of co-financing national programs of social safety nets (Acts 2.2), was estimated at US\$ 202,375,000, and the amounting of necessary other sources co-financing (by member states, i.e.) estimated at US\$ 968,366,667.

1.18 Risks, Challenges and Issues

39. The social safety net support program is part of a multidimensional vision of food security that requires one to move beyond agriculture administrations and involve other sector-based departments (both nationally and regionally). It is an innovative program for which the institutional and human capacities remain to be built. As with many other

programs, it needs to rely on an efficient information system, notably in member states. To mitigate some of the risks inherent in such a program, his implementation requires a range of additional measures.

Risks and Assumptions, related with:

- Program Feasibility: (i) poor adhesion by states (because of an agenda somewhat radically different from orientations adopted until just recently, and costs difficult to cover with national resources, including in the medium term), and (ii) ability to mobilize international aid (by ECOWADF and States).
- Program Implementation: (i) no well-developed natural host institution within ECOWAS or in States, and (ii) poor implementation capacity.
- Program Impact: (i) low population density in several parts of the region who drive up costs considerably, and (ii) few technical solutions suitable for some of the most vulnerable populations in the region (e.g. herders).

Conditions to meet to roll out the program effectively and efficiently:

- Leadership and national coordination ;
- Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food's monitoring capacity;
- Developing information and decision assistance systems;
- Access to banks services (efficiency of financial transfers).

Links to conceive to ensure program coherence within the RAIP:

- Inclusion of the issue on the agenda of the Inter-departmental Committee for Food and Agriculture;
- Coordination with the Regional Food Security Reserve;
- Coordination with instruments and the Regional Program targeting intensification support;
- Coordination with instruments and the Regional Program targeting storage and grouped marketing support.

VI. Regional Program to Support Agricultural Intensification and Pastoral West Africa

1.19 Strategic Orientation

40. The program aims to: “accelerate economic growth to improve incomes of different stakeholders, reduce poverty and ensure the preservation of natural resources and the environment”. The program is part of an overall framework of strategies, programs, projects contributing to the Millennium Development Goals, including reducing food insecurity and halving poverty by the year 2015. The program covers the strategic products selected by the Strategic Objective 1 of RAIP: rice, maize and cassava; and large livestock and small ruminants.

1.20 Intervention Rationale

Overall Objective	Specific Objective	Axes of intervention	Outcomes	Activities
Overall objective: "Contribute to the promotion of strategic products for food sovereignty and security."	Specific objectives: "Contribute to the modernization of agriculture for food security and sovereignty in a context of regional integration"	Axis 1: Facilitate farmers' access to inputs	Outcome 1.1: Appropriate mechanisms for financing access to inputs and livestock feed are established and operational	Act. 1.1.1 Support Member States implement instruments to manage risk related to intensification (agricultural insurance)
				Act. 1.1.2: Harmonize the key interest rates of central banks and interest rate agricultural loans
				Act 1.1.3. Support the establishment of guarantee funds by Member States (co-financing the guarantee)
			Outcome 1.2: Input voucher programs for vulnerable farmers are implemented	Act. 1.2.1: Formulation, adoption of the eligibility criteria
				Act. 1.2.2. Establish of funds and co-financing mechanisms for vouchers
				Act 1.2.3. Establishment of a capacity building fund for POs and local authorities to manage vouchers
			Outcome 1.3: Network of input distributors is expanded and professionalized	Act. 1.3.1: Support for legislation
				Act 1.3.2. Professionalization (training on quality management and efficient use of inputs, business management)

			Act. 1.3.3. Awareness of the national and regional regulation)
	Axis 2: Promote innovative and sustainable production systems	Outcome 2.1: Research capacities on varieties adapted to climate change are reinforced	Act. 2.1.1: Creation/strengthening of specialized regional centers: maize, rice, manioc, livestock (extension of WAAPP project)
			Act.2.1.2: Introduction of competitive funds for interdisciplinary research with the involvement of POs (regional research centers)
			Act.2.1.3: Establishment of funds to support research and doctoral training
		Outcome 2.2: Village water systems are in place and functional	Act. 2.2.1: Support the establishment of pastoral wells in transhumance corridors
			Act. 2.2.2: Support the establishment of water points / multi-purpose boreholes
			Act. 2.2.3: Support for the implementation of rainwater catchment systems for supplemental irrigation
		Outcome 2.3: POs' intensification initiatives are supported	Act. 2.3.1: Support for peer exchanges among farmers, inside and outside the region,
			Act. 2.3.2: Support for technological innovation of POs (competitive funding)

1.21 Stakeholders and beneficiaries

41. Various local, national and regional-level actors and institutions will be responsible for implementing the program: ECOWAS Commission (DAEWR, RAAF, ECOWADF), Member States, socio-professional/trade organizations, banking sector, private sector (input distributors), and NGOs.

1.22 Program Implementation

42. The program will be implemented by the specialized technical institution of ECOWAS: Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF). RAAF implements ECOWAP programs by calling on regional actors with skills in these areas. The Agency will contract regional institutions and organizations for the implementation of projects, under the political leadership of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the ECOWAS

Commission. It will centralize applications from different institutions before forwarding them to the Regional Fund. Project files are handled by the technical unit.

43. Financing will come through the ECOWAS Agriculture Development Fund (ECOWADF). The Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food makes investment and funding resources available for various activities. ECOWADF has four windows: (i) Support to regional integration of agriculture, which includes the sub-sectors of agricultural intensification; processing and marketing; and management of natural resources, (ii) Food security (social safety nets and regional stocks), (iii) Support for innovation and capacity building (research and capacity building), and (iv) Support for regional policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks. The Fund will operate in two ways:

- 100% subsidies for regional actions. The actions that qualify for 100% subsidies are those under the RAIP and managed by the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food, in partnership with various partners--cooperation agencies' regional technical entities, socio-professional networks and trade organizations, consulting firms, private institutions, NGOs, etc.--recognized as eligible for the regional fund. Jointly with the Fund, RAAF will establish the eligibility criteria for regional projects.
- Co-financing of actions implemented at the national level and supported by (i) the Member State that submits a program to ECOWAS and (ii) eligible commercial banks.

1.23 Overall program cost

44. The total program cost is evaluated at 342,5000,000 U.S. dollars over five years.

1.24 Risks, Challenges and Issues

Risks and Assumptions

45. Implementation of the regional agricultural and pastoral intensification support program is a complex process whose success depends on several factors. Bold steps are required to mitigate the principal risks of not achieving objectives:

- Effects of climate change and variability;
- Mobilization of financial resources ;
- Coordination between the different institutions at different scales;
- Political stability and security.

Conditions to meet to roll out the program effectively and efficiently

46. To reach the objectives of the agricultural and pastoral intensification support program, it is necessary to adopt a number of complementary reforms that are the responsibility of other departments of the ECOWAS Commission, and individual Member States. Some crucial measures must be addressed with care :

- Promote an enabling environment for regional trade in agricultural products ;
- Support efforts to secure land tenure, a prerequisite for intensification ;
- Implement measures to manage expected surplus of intensification.

VII. Regional Program to Support the Regulation of West African Markets

1.25 Strategic Orientation

47. The Regional Program for the Regulation of African Markets (RPRAM) falls under the overall objective of the regional investment plan to “modernize agriculture to support food sovereignty in view of regional integration”. The objective the latter is to accelerate economic growth in order to boost incomes of the various stakeholders, reduce poverty and ensure the protection of natural resources and the environment. The program covers several areas: (i) regulation and standardization; (ii) the harmonization of policies, strategies and negotiation positions in international arenas; (iii) financial instruments; (iv) investments; (v) risk hedging tools; and (vi) training, information and skill development.

1.26 Intervention Rationale

Overall objective	Specific objectives	Outcomes	Activities	
Contribute to achieving food sovereignty by improving the intra-regional trade flows and market regulation of agro-food products.	SO 1: Establish border trade mechanisms to manage the impact of international price volatility on regional markets.	Outcome 1.1: ECOWAS establishes effective border mechanisms adapted to the specificities of the regional market for agricultural products.	Activity 1.1.1 - Formulate possible proposals for reclassifying products currently under-protected by the CET.	
			Activity 1.1.2 - Make proposals for supporting agricultural challenges and food security in the region.	
			Activity 1.1.3 – Make proposals for special safeguards against short-term eventualities such as price volatility.	
			Activity 1.1.4: Guarantee the consistent monitoring of the implementation and the impact of border mechanisms relating to agricultural products	
		Outcome 1.2: border mechanisms are recognized in international agreements to which the region is implicated	Activity 1.2.1 - Contribute to drawing up regional submissions in areas where the CET CEDAO may be challenged by WTO stakeholders	
			Activity 1.2.2 - Help strengthen ECOWAS at the WTO in order to defend regional interests as regards agricultural products and food security	
	regulation initiatives and mechanisms for improving the fluidity of the interior regional	Outcome 2.1.: The region has a strategic and regulatory environment that encourages the development of	Activity 2.1.1. Develop a market regulation strategy for the region and support its transposition into concerted, harmonized and national strategies.	Activity 2.1.2. Adapting regional regulation and transposing it into national regulations the fields of cooperative laws, (ii) warrantage, (iii) collateral management, (iv) securities, (v) agricultural product norms

	private sector and socio-professional initiatives	Activity 2.1.3. Development of an accreditation scheme for socioprofessionals and private operators for warrantage and collateral management.
	Outcome 2.2. The region adopts economic and financial mechanisms for promoting storage and marketing initiatives	Activity 2.2.1. Support POs disseminating warrantage, setting up storage facilities, risk hedging mechanisms and financial instruments for commercial banks and MFI (guarantee funds, refinancing lines...)
		Activity 2.2.2. Promote the development of professional collateral management by funding storage facilities and pilot experiments.
		Activity 2.2.3. Promote the development of a regional stock exchange for agricultural products, in particular grains.
		Activity 2.2.4. - Promote value chains and interprofessional schemes on the scale of production regions and trading.
	Outcome 2.3. The capacities of stakeholders and market regulation mechanisms are strengthened	Activity 2.3.1. Capacity building of stakeholders involved in market regulation mechanisms.
		Activity 2.3.2. Set up a training program for the relevant operators: Peasant Organizations, Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce, private operators, banks and DFS
		Activity 2.3.3. Improve access to information through Information Systems on price, trade flows and business opportunities.

1.27 Stakeholders and beneficiaries

- For SO1: DAERE will rely on the CIAA to work together with the Trade Department. This process should bring together: Trade and Agriculture Ministries of Member States, Members of the Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food, UEMOA Commission.
- For SO2: DAERE will work with the RAAF and EBID. Implementation will bring together: producer organizations (POs), private sector and warehouse keepers, banking sector and micro-finance institutions, insurance companies, NGOs and TA providers to POs and the financial sector, RESIMAO (WAMIS-NET), CILSS, and support projects for improving the fluidity of regional trade.

1.28 Program Implementation

48. The implementation of SO1 for the regulation of border areas falls under the prerogative of the DAEWR, in collaboration with the Trade Department of the ECOWAS Commission. The implementation of SO2 for the domestic market regulation falls under the prerogatives delegated by the DAWR to the RAAF. A project manager must be recruited specifically for this program, and RAAF will work with the technical unit set up at the regional PO level to support POs and networks.

1.29 Overall program cost

49. The overall cost of the investments required in this program was estimated at 79.075 million U.S. dollars over five years.

1.30 Risks, Challenges and Issues

50. The program is at the crossroads of several major challenging issues: (i) managing the interface with the global market, (ii) structuring and capacity building of PO and other marketing actors, (iii) organization of value chains, market regulation and promotion of the regional market, (iv) local storage and its place within a national and regional storage strategy, (v) agricultural and market risk management, (vi) involvement of the commercial banking sector and MFIs in the agricultural sector as a whole and in financing storage and marketing in particular.

51. The program will be based on a consistent approach to external trade policy, and activities to promote agricultural sectors and regulate regional markets, and deployment of risk management tools, insurance and risk pooling mechanisms essential to secure the investments.

Risks and Assumptions, related with:

- Program Feasibility: (i) low appropriation of State and professional stakeholders, and (ii) capacity to mobilize international aid (by ECOWADF and States);
- Program Implementation: (i) absence of a well-developed host institution, on the ECOWAS Commission or State level, and (ii) low capacity for implementation;
- Program Impact: (i) border mechanisms do not cover all the strategic products in terms of regional food security and agriculture, which will limit their effective impact on regulating markets, and (ii) high level of exposure to natural hazards and market risks in certain zones (which creates a permanent risk to the viability and sustainability of local microfinance institutions, stock management and marketing efforts).

Conditions to meet to roll out the program effectively and efficiently:

- Monitoring capacity of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food.

Linkages to conceive during implementation:

- Development of information systems and decision-making support;
- Trade policy measures ;
- Measures relating to the banking sector and microfinance ;
- Coordination with the Regional Food Security Reserve and the mechanisms implemented under the intensification support program.