

PPAAO/WAAPP :

Organisation in Dakar of the 4th ordinary session of the Regional Steering Committee

From 24th to 28th October, 2011, the Chairmen of the National Steering Committees, the Coordinators of the 13 WAAPP countries, the representatives of the World Bank and CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat convened to assess the implementation of the 2011 work plan and plan 2012 activities and Budgets.

They discussed the issues of researchers mobility and existing technology dissemination and adoption. In general, WAAPP is well implemented both at the national and regional levels. CORAF/WECARD was encouraged to pursue the activities for the promotion of the Programme at regional level.

Before starting the working session of the Regional Steering Committee as such, the participants discovered the results achieved by WAAPP Senegal in Dakar, Thiès and Bambeby.

The fourth session of the Regional Steering Committee was officially opened by the Senegalese Minister of Agriculture, Mr Khadim Gueye. The Gambian Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Mr Kalifa and Mrs Kaba, the Secretary General of the Mano River Union, actively participated in the sessions and shared their experience. Mr Aubee Ernest, ECOWAS Representative, chaired the sessions of the Regional Steering Committee. □



The Senegalese Minister of Agriculture visiting the stands that were displaying products from WAAPP Senegal, Mali and Ghana

MDTF :

CORAF/WECARD's MDTF officially launched on 14th October, 2011 in Dakar

CORAF/WECARD's Multidonor Trust Fund (MDTF) was officially launched in the presence of the representatives of the European Commission, CIDA, the World Bank and CORAF/WECARD Senior Managers. This launch took place in CORAF/WECARD Headquarters. During the ceremony, Dr Paco Sérémé presented the objectives of this fund and its implementation process. Mr Stéphane Halgand, from the Delegation of the European Commission in Dakar, officially launched CORAF/WECARD MDTF. The MDTF currently has two donors, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that is contributing 10 million Canadian dollars and the European Commission (EC) that is contributing 11,475,000 euros. These two development partners fund CORAF/WECARD for a period of five years.

The grant agreement was signed between the Donors, and the World Bank and between the World Bank and CORAF/WECARD. □



Overview of the participants and of the guests during the launch of CORAF/WECARD MDTF .

Read CORAF ECHO the online Bulletin CORAF/ WECARD.

For any information to share,

Please contact anatole.kone@coraf.org

PTBA 2012 :

the activities launched at the E.S.

The staff of CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat convened from 12th to 13th September, 2011 to perform the midterm review of the implementation of the 2011 Operational Plan and to develop the 2012 Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB).

With regard to the mid-term review of the implementation of the 2011 Annual Work Plan and Budget, all the Departments and Units presented the status of implementation of their activities over the last first six months compared with provisions.

This review revealed that the activities planned for the first semester of this year have not all been implemented because the anticipated funding, the Multidonor Trust Fund, was not in place in the first semester. Its effectiveness in the second semester will facilitate the implementation of a lot of activities.

Dr Georges Muluh, CORAF/WECARD Planning Officer, presented the 2012 Annual Work Plan and Budget. He asked the Heads of Directions and Units to insist on the results to achieve. A column is devoted to these results. This innovation is in line with the result-based management strategy applied in CORAF/WECARD.

The Director of Administration and Finance and the Procurement Officer respectively explained the codifications to respect and the form to fill in for each and unit's procurement plan. □



George Muluh, Planning Officer of CORAF/WECARD

STC :

9th Ordinary Session of CORAF/WECARD STC held in Senegal.

The members of CORAF/WECARD Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) met from 17th to 21st October, 2011 for the ninth ordinary session of their organ in Saly, Senegal.

They reviewed CORAF/WECARD's scientific questions and discussed the main activities planned for 2012. They also proceeded to the selection of new members as the mandate of six of its members was over.

They also reflected on the STC's functioning during a retreat in order to efficiently contribute to the implementation of CORAF/WECARD's Operational Plan.



The members of the STC and the staff of the Executive Secretariat agreed on the way of working for the successful implementation of the Operational Plan.

Information/Communication :

the capacities of CORAF/WECARD NARS communication experts strengthened



In groups, communication experts exchanged on the pillars of CORAF/WECARD communication strategy.

From 11th to 14th October, 2011, about fifty communication experts from the 22 NARS and 4 base-centres of the CORAF/WECARD region were invited in Lomé in the framework of a training session on the techniques for developing a communication plans with a view to providing their institutions with plans in line with that of CORAF/WECARD.

CORAF/WECARD Strategic and Operational Plans and their role as NARS Communication Specialists were also explained to them before the implementation in January 2012. □

Adaptation to Climate Change :

implementation of the West African Platform

Following the methodological workshop held in June 2011 which enabled the stakeholders and partners to understand the project, the participants from West Africa were convened in Abuja to exchange on the implementation of their platform, to identify the main stakeholders and, above all, to choose the axes and channels of communication. This was from 28th to 29th September, 2011.

During two days of exchange, the main stakeholders in climate change adaptation in West Africa were explained the objectives, the expected results and the activities of the project « Exchange Platform between Researchers and Policy Makers, for adaptation to Climate Change ».

The roles and responsibilities of the main West African Stakeholders were specified, and the messages and main channels of communication were also identified for the finalization of the communication strategy. This meeting facilitated the de facto implementation of the stakeholders' project in West Africa with the support of the ECO-WAS Commission. □



Les experts en Afrique de l'Ouest se sont accordés sur la stratégie pour l'adaptation au changement climatique.

AFOMDnet :

meeting of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the Analysis Network for Factors in Foodcrop Supply, Marketing and Diversification (AFOMDnet) met from 28th to 29th September, 2011 in Cotonou, in the framework of its first Annual Conference, in order to assess the implementation of the project.

The AFOMDnet project that has been implemented in 5 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Chad) since October 2009 aims to strengthen researchers' capacities in order to facilitate the analysis of foodcrop production and marketing.

Following one year and a half of implementation, the members of the Steering Committee and the resource persons stressed that the project succeeded in strengthening stakeholders' capacities in scientific writing through 7 training workshops. In the field of information dissemination, two databases have been developed :

- the CAN : capitalization and consultation of information on the activities conducted in ACP countries, and
- the SLIRE : Scientific Literature Referencing Internet Tool.

Dr Ousmane Ndoye, the Manager of the Non Staple Crops Programme, represented CORAF/WECARD at this meeting. □

CAADP Pillar 4 :

Review of its implementation in Central Africa

From 20th to 23rd September, 2011, the stakeholders and partners of agricultural research and development convened in Yaoundé for exchanges aimed at sensitizing Central African countries so that they integrate the principles of the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) into the country activities of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

With regard to the implementation of CAADP pillar 4 on agricultural research and technology transfer, FARA, at the continental level, and CORAF/WECARD, at the level of the West and Central Africa sub-regions, are responsible for supporting the countries in implementing their activities in the framework of these principles. CORAF/WECARD therefore implements ECOWAS and ECCAS research policies.

It appeared, during this meeting, that ECCAS strengthened its capacities for the implementation of CAADP Pillar 4 in Central Africa. The Community conducted sensitization activities that were successful even if the efforts must be pursued. Out of the eight invited countries, only Gabon, Cameroon and Chad attended this meeting.

Only Chad undertook activities in the framework of the CAADP. Ghana and Nigeria shared their experience with Central African countries.

Another information learnt during this meeting was the appointment of IRAD's new Director General, Dr Noe Woin. He replaced Dr Jacob Ngeve.

PPAAO/WAAPP :

Côte d'Ivoire's NCS plans its activities

Côte d'Ivoire's National Centre of Specialisation on Plantain convened its stakeholders and partners in the framework of a meeting for the planning of the activities on the plantain sub-sector. This meeting was held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, from 27th September to 1st October, 2011.

In the framework of the effective launch of its activities, the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme of Côte d'Ivoire convened all its stakeholders and partners in order to reflect on the present situation and on the perspectives of the plantain sub-sector.

During one week, the participants reviewed the constraints to the development of the plantain sub-sector and the needs of national and subregional stakeholders were identified

and prioritized. Technology research, development and dissemination programmes were approved. The participants also approved the partnerships that are necessary for the implementation of the programmes and discussed their roles and responsibilities in the framework of the implementation of these various programmes.

CORAF/WECARD was represented at this meeting by Dr Ernest Asiedu, the Manager of the Staple Crops Programme.



Africa Rice :

meeting of experts in the framework of a Science Week on Rice

The Science Week of the Africa Rice Centre, AfricaRice, was held from 12th to 16th September, 2011 in Cotonou.

The aim of this meeting was to present the Global Rice Science Partnership. This GRiSP is a CGIAR initiative that is the new reference for the organisations working in the rice sub-sector. GRiSP's mission is to reduce poverty and hunger, improve human health and nutrition, reduce the environmental footprint, and enhance the ecosystem resilience of rice production systems.

GRiSP's six priority research themes are : Genetic Diversity, Development, Delivery and Adoption of Improved Rice Varieties, Ecological and Sustainable Management of Rice-based Production Systems, Extracting more value from Rice Harvests and Rice Products Market Systems, Technology Evaluations, Targeting, and Policy Options for Enhanced Impact and Supporting the Growth of the Global Rice Sector. □



GRiSP initiative will develop Rice sub sector in Africa

Biosafety :

the finalization of the regional regulation continues

Biotechnology and Biosafety experts recently met during a review workshop on the implementation of the activities that should make the West African Region endow itself with a regulation on biosecurity. This was in Ouagadougou.

The UEMOA and ECOWAS Commissions as well as the CILSS decided to coordinate the activities in the field of environment protection and animal and human health by endowing themselves with a concerted and coherent subregional framework on biosecurity. The three institutions developed a roadmap and a draft project on a community legal framework for biosecurity in West Africa.

The Ouagadougou Workshop aimed at reviewing the implementation of this roadmap. The experts judged necessary to include the private sector and Civil Society Organisations in the validation process of the Community Legal Framework for Biosecurity. They also agreed to enlarge the Editorial Board to ECOWAS, WAEMU and CORAF/WECARD's legal practitioners. □

Prof Sangaré Abdourahamane, the Manager of the Biotechnology and Biosecurity Programme, represented CORAF/WECARD at this meeting. □



PPAAO/WAAPP :

the NCS for Roots and Tubers convened experts in Accra

Research experts and partners on roots and tubers were convened during a subregional workshop on these crops in order to assess research activities and, above all, to share the techniques for technology transfer.

This meeting organized by WAAPP - Ghana enabled the participants to review the new varieties of yam, cassava, cocoyam and sweet potato developed by the researchers from Ghana and the subregion. Dissemination and adoption techniques were also shared. The challenges to a qualitative research were pointed at and proposals for solutions were made.

It should be recalled that WAAPP Ghana National Centre of Specialisation for Roots and Tubers is CSIR-Crop Research Institute. □

Cooperation :

Visit of the Congolese Minister of Scientific Research at CORAF/WECARD Headquarters

The Congolese Minister of Scientific Research, Dr Henri OSSEBI, accompanied with the Cultural Affairs Officer of the Congolese Embassy in Senegal, held a working session with Dr Paco Sérémé and the staff of the Executive Secretariat on Tuesday 20th September, 2011.

The aim of this meeting was to explain the institutional and operational arrangements of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) to the Minister whose country, Congo, as well as Cameroon and Chad expressed their interest in joining the Central Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (CAAPP).

Dr Paco Sérémé presented to his guest the genesis of the WAAPP, its objectives, originalities, components, institutional framework, state of execution and, above all, CORAF/WECARD's support role.

The discussions between the Minister and the staff of the Executive Secretariat focused on CAAPP's institutional governance, CORAF/WECARD support, the selection of speculations in countries and baseline studies for CAAPP's effectiveness.



Dr Henri Ossebi exchanging with the staff of the Executive Secretariat.

The meeting ended with the official invitation of the Congolese Minister to the 10th General Assembly and to the 3rd Science Week of CORAF/WECARD planned to be held in 2012 in Ndjamena. The Minister promised to participate in this meeting as he did for the last General Assembly held from 24th to 29th May, 2010 in Cotonou provided his schedule allows it.



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Director of publication
Pr Yusuf ABUBAKAR

Director of Edition
Paco Sérémé

Editor-in-Chief
Anatole Yékéminan Koné

Editing and Reading Committee
Department Info/Com

Layout
Alassane DIA

Online publication
Gorgui Alioune Mbow

A French version is available

CORAF/WECARD, BP 48 Dakar RP
CP 18523, Sénégal
Tél. : (221) 33 869 96 18
Fax : (221) 33 869 96 31
E-mail : paco.sereme@coraf.org
anatole.kone@coraf.org
Internet : www.coraf.org

AGENDA

Meetings organised by CORAF/WECARD

28th November - 2nd December, 2011, Dakar. Second Ordinary session of CORAF/WECARD Governing Board for 2011.

21st - 25th November, 2011, Dakar. Regional Launching Workshop of three competitive projects in West and Central Africa.

14th - 18th November 2011, Cotonou. Regional Training Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation.

14th - 15th November 2011, N'djamena. Technical Preparation Mission for the 10th General Assembly and the 3rd Scientific Week in West and Central Africa.

9th - 12th November, 2011, Dakar and Bamako. Workshop for the review of AUSAID-CSIRO-CORAF/WECARD Partnership's activities of the initiative on Food Security in West and Central Africa.

2nd - 4th November, 2011, Dakar. CCFAS Regional Workshop for scenario development in West Africa.

2nd - 3rd November 2011, Libreville. CORAF/WECARD - ECCAS Mission for the Strengthening of Cooperation.

1st - 4th November 2011, Douala. Launching of three competitive projects in West and Central Africa.