

**COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO**

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**International Conference on  
Financing Regional Agricultural Policy  
in West Africa  
(ECOWAP/CAADP)**



**Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja (Nigeria)  
November 11-12, 2009**

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**Conference Presentation**

## The context

**I**N JANUARY 2005, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted its agricultural policy — ECOWAP — following a process of close cooperation with its member states and the socio-professional organizations. This regional policy is the instrument used to implement the agricultural section of NEPAD (PDDAA) in the region.

In 2007-2008, while the countries and regional institutions were working on designing the national agricultural investment programs (NAIPs) in each of the 15 member states and at the regional level, the dramatic increase in the price of food commodities and agricultural inputs hit the region hard. This crisis demonstrated the relevance of the provisions adopted within the framework of ECOWAP/CAADP, in particular the development of a food safety net and of food sovereignty in an efficient regional market. It also emphasized the urgent need for the effective implementation of this policy.

Faced with this crisis, the states and the ECOWAS Commission reacted immediately. The Summit of Heads of State and Government held in June 2008 adopted the “Regional

Offensive for Food Production and against Hunger” based on a proposal by the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Economics and Finance, of Agriculture and of Trade held in May 2008. This offensive is aligned with the priorities adopted in ECOWAP/CAADP. It sets priorities and endeavors to accelerate the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP by mobilizing national, regional and international decision-makers. Several international partners provide support for the implementation of this offensive through new financial facilities deployed in response to the crisis.

In July 2008, at the height of the crisis and during a conference of the European Parliament organized at the initiative of the French Presidency of the European Union, a coalition was formed around the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the French Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Michel Barnier, the European Commissioner for Development, Mr. Louis Michel and the Vice-President of

the World Bank, Ms. Ngozi, with a view to making the agricultural policy of ECOWAS a model partnership between the financial backers and the regional organizations.

An initial political dialogue meeting was held in Paris in December 2008 to air the positions and expectations concerning the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP. This meeting allowed the region and its partners in the international community to come to an agreement on a work program enabling the organization of an international conference in late 2009 on the financing of agricultural policy.

In view of this, the region, with the support of its partners, undertook to:

- Finalize the preparation of the national agricultural investment programs (NAIPs) in the 15 countries together with the thematic regional agricultural investment programs (RAIPs);



- Identify a limited number of mobilizing and federating programs focusing on key issues with a view to the rapid and large-scale transformation of the regional agricultural sector;
- Complete the agricultural policy by endowing it with the relevant instruments in three fields: (i) support for the sustainable intensification of agriculture; (ii) the regulation and stabilization of agricultural markets; and (iii) access to food for vulnerable populations;
- Implement the decision of the Heads of State and Government concerning the introduction of a regional agricultural development fund and the definition of a financial coordination mechanism;
- Prepare the terms of a Regional Partnership Compact between West Africa and the technical and financial partners.



These different undertakings are nearing completion. The main documents have been approved by the extraordinary session of the Ministers responsible for economics and finance, integration, agriculture and trade held in Yamoussoukro (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire) on October 22, 2009.

These documents were the subject of a discussion with the technical and financial partners during a meeting held in Yamoussoukro on October 23, 2009.

## Aim of the conference

**T**HE AIM OF THE CONFERENCE is to *adopt the Draft Regional Partnership Compact for the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP.*

This pact will confirm the adherence of the parties concerned — ECOWAS, regional cooperation organizations, professional organizations, financial institutions and technical and financial partners — to the focuses, objectives, principles and institutional and financial mechanisms relating to ECOWAP/CAADP. It recognizes ECOWAP/CAADP as the sole basis for the programming and coordination of regional operations in the agricultural sector.

## Expected results

**W**ITHIN THIS IN MIND, the international conference on the financing of the ECOWAP/CAADP regional agricultural policy aims to achieve the following results:

- disseminate the vision developed by ECOWAP/CAADP concerning the transformation of the regional agricultural sector;

- present the main results of the NAIP process and the resulting requirements for investment at national level;
- adopt the terms of the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP at regional level;
  - the three mobilizing and federating programs integrating the investments, the public policy instruments and the accompanying measures;
  - the institutional framework and the financial mechanism;
- adopt and sign the Regional Partnership Compact for the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP.

## Participants

**T**HE CONFERENCE on financing will bring together the main partners concerned by the process of defining the agricultural policy and the programs, i.e.:

- The Ministries of Economics and Finance, Agriculture, Integration and Trade in the 15 member states of ECOWAS;
- The technical cooperation organizations: CMA/WCA, WECARD, IFDC, Hub rural, CTA, IMWI, etc.;
- The intergovernmental integration and cooperation institutions: African Union, WAE-MU, CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), ABN, OMVS, MRU;
- The regional research institutions: IITA, ICRISAT, Africa Rice Centre (ADRAO), etc.
- The socio-professional organizations: ROPPA, ROESAO, Interface, etc.;
- The technical and financial partners: bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, agricultural support foundations (AGRA, Syngenta, etc.); the agencies of the United Nations (WFP, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, ECA), the development banks and financial institutions (World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, EBID, BOAD, ECOBANK, etc.), etc.;
- The coordination organizations of the technical and financial partners: Global donors platform/NEPAD, Secretary-General's high-level task force on the global food security crisis, Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD;
- The regional civil society organizations and NOGs;
- The technical structures providing support to ECOWAS in implementing ECOWAP/CAADP (IFPRI, ReSAKSS, IRAM, Issala, LARES, MSU).

## Documents submitted

**T**HE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS were drawn up with a view to preparing the international conference:

- ECOWAP/CAADP presentation document;
- Summary of the national agricultural investment programs (NAIPs);
- Presentation of the regional mobilizing programs;
- Detailed document concerning the mobilizing programs;
- Note relating to the institutional framework and financial mechanisms;
- Regional Partnership Compact for the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP.