

UNDERSTANDING THE ECOWAS AGRICULTURAL POLICY (ECOWAP) AND ITS IMPLEMENTATIONS



ECOWAS-UEMOA inter-institutional meet on the regional policy convergence

instruments with regional and country policy and planning.

- Review best practice on NSAs engagement on CAADP/ Malabo and explore ways for NSAs to scale and be more effective
- Begin a regional NSA mapping to expand and strengthen the network of NSAs contributing to ECOWAP/RAIP and broader CAADP implementation
- Develop an Action Plan for strengthening the regional NSA network and next steps in scaled up, more consistent and meaningful NSA engagement going forward.

1.0. Introduction

This policy brief is produced with the aim of educating particularly, ECOWAS Non State Actors (NSAs) and the general public for a proper and informed understanding of the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy – ECOWAP and its implementation process. The brief has become necessary as an instrument for engaging ECOWAS and her member States especially within the context of the Joint Sector Review (JSR) of ECOWAP +10 so that NSAs would be better positioned to even make recommendations and be part of the next 10 years of the implementation of ECOWAP, the alignment between ECOWAP and CAADP, as well as the level of implementation of the Maputo-Malabo commitments. The brief also seeks to identify specific roles for the NSAs in the implementation of ECOWAP and becomes handy for the planned JSR which is anchored on the following objectives:

- To reacquaint NSAs with CAADP and the Malabo Declaration and the importance of aligning the

In addition, it is important to note that within the context of the JSR, the extent of NSAs involvement so far in the ECOWAP process also becomes imperative in keying into existing channels or opening other windows of intervention for a comprehensive and successful implementation of set goals and targets and for the ultimate benefit of the community citizens.

This brief also tries to document some of the challenges faced during the decade 2005-2015 and recommendations for the implementation process going forward to 2025. This review is based largely on the desk review of related documents / policies, namely; ECOWAP¹, CAADP², RAIP³, and some presentations from ECOWAS⁴.

¹ECOWAS Agricultural Policy

²Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Policy

³Regional Agricultural Investment Policy

⁴ECOWAP and the major achievements of ECOWAP-CAADP by Alain SY Traore; Directorate Agriculture & Rural Development during CAADP Stakeholders National Stocktaking and Donor Alignment Meeting in Addis Ababa between February 11-13 2014

2.0. Background on the State of Agriculture in West Africa



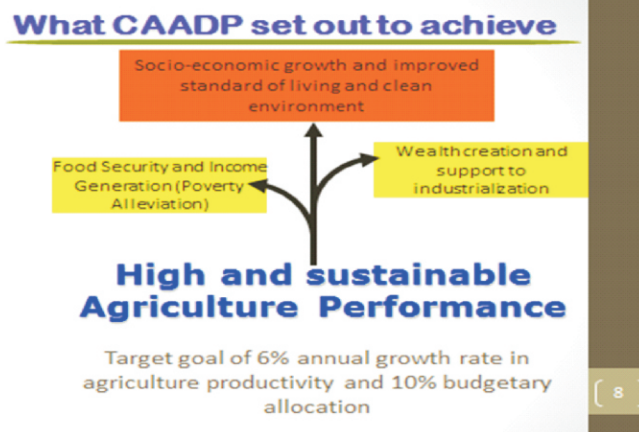
Agriculture plays a major role in West Africa because national economies, jobs, incomes, industrial raw materials supply and food security depend on it. Agriculture is also significant for the region as between 35-40% of the regional GDP comes from it and also accounts for about 20% of regional exports.

The sector employs about 60% of West African citizens though it is less lucrative than other sectors such as oil, telecommunications, etc. Further gender disaggregation suggests that women play greater roles in production, processing, and marketing of agricultural produce. Youths tend to seek livelihoods in more rewarding sectors leaving agriculture precariously in the hands of aging population.

3.0. Brief on CAADP and Africa's Agricultural Policy

The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) is the continental framework for fighting the fundamental question of hunger and achieving economic development in Africa through the instrumentality of the agricultural sector. The strategy sets a target of achieving 6 percent annual agricultural growths, supported by the allocation of at least 10 percent of the national

budgets to agricultural sector. Whereas many African Heads of States overwhelmingly signed on to the CAADP commitment in Maputo 2003, however, the level of realization of the overarching goal of poverty reduction is yet to be clear even among the various countries especially given the disparagingly fluctuating levels of implementation.



The commitment to increasing investment in Africa's agricultural sector is fundamental to growth in view of the fact that over 70 percent of the continent's population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. This population's food security is largely driven by the Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) popularly regarded as the small holder farmers who are responsible for over 80% of domestic food production. This constituency cultivates the crops and raises livestock on less than two hectares of land, and is dominated largely by women.

Interestingly, Africa is the fastest growing continent and with the agricultural sector, it has been noted that Africa's ability to sustain its current rapid growth will depend largely on how it is able to use this rural economy to fast track development. It is therefore no doubt that Africa's smallholder farmers can be agriculture's game changers of the 21st century.

3.1. The Principles of CAADP

Over and above, the following principles and targets are meant to be pursued by CAADP:

- Agriculture-led growth as a main strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction (MDG1)
- Pursuit of a 6 percent average annual agricultural growth rate at the national level

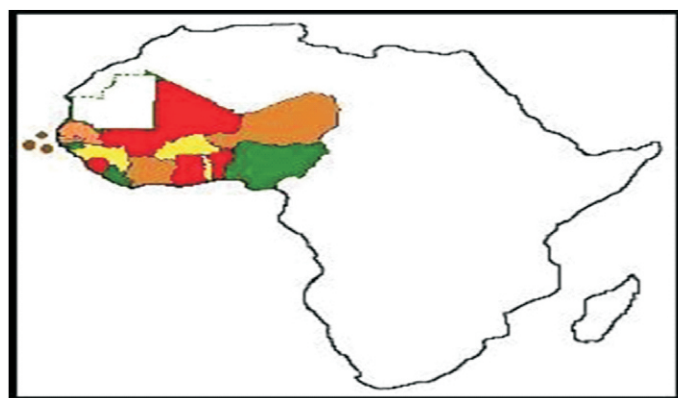
- iii. Allocation of 10 percent of national budgets to the agricultural sector
- iv. Exploitation of regional complementarities and cooperation to boost growth
- v. Policy efficiency, dialogue, review, and accountability, shared by all NEPAD programs
- vi. Building partnerships and alliances to include farmers, agribusiness, and civil society communities
- vii. Implementation principles, including program implementation by countries, coordination by regional economic bodies, and facilitation by the NEPAD Secretariat (NEPAD 2005a)
- iv. Addressing the problem of inadequate investment and budgetary allocation to the sector.
- v. Climate challenge, desertification, food, finance and fuel crisis, conflict and poverty.
- vi. Providing/enhancing infrastructure (markets, energy, etc).

3.3. The Ownership of CAADP

To date, fifty out of fifty-four countries in Africa are using the CAADP structure in agricultural planning⁵. CAADP has been recognized as the expression of agricultural policy by African States and citizens of the continent. The uniqueness of CAADP is that it is a policy initiated and formulated by the African people themselves, and is therefore collectively owned by African citizens and institutions.

Importantly, the Agricultural sector is a broad one that embraces both State Actors and many Non State Actors (NSAs) such as farmers, agribusinesses, producer organizations, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), labour Unions, Community based Organizations (CBOs) and Cooperatives, etc. CAADP recognizes that to transform African agriculture in each country or region, it is important to build broad and inclusive partnership through coalitions committed to improving the sector's policies, programmes and institutions.

Locating ECOWAS within the map of Africa



Driving Agricultural Transformation through dialogue and accountability

3.2. CAADP's Target

The CAADP initiative was introduced for Africa to pay maximum attention to all the dimensions of food security, namely; availability, affordability, accessibility and quality with a view to addressing the following:

- i. Providing raw materials for the industrial sector rather than remain net exporters thereof, while also seeking the provision of effective market for such industrial products.
- ii. Generating employment and Livelihood through the release of labor to industrial and services sectors by reducing the demand for labour in agriculture, and allowing labour to move to more productive jobs in manufacturing and services sectors.
- iii. Promoting domestic savings for investment through foreign exchange (FOREX) retention, particularly given the enormous resources Africa spends annually on food imports.

⁵<http://www.nepad.org/foodsecurity/news/3284/transforming-africas-agriculture-shared-prosperity>

4.0. The Linkage Between ECOWAP and CAADP

Whereas CAADP was adopted by the African Heads of States, however, the Conference of ECOWAS Heads of States (Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire) through a mandate to support the implementation of CAADP developed the regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP), and in 2005, ECOWAS and the NEPAD Secretariat developed a joint ECOWAP/CAADP action plan for the development of the agricultural sector. To this end, the ECOWAP assumed the policy thrust for implementing CAADP in West Africa, with the underlying principles are "subsidiarity, solidarity and complementarity".

4.1. Justification for the formulation of ECOWAP⁶

ECOWAP was adopted by the West African Heads of States and government precisely on the 19th January 2005, and the region premised the policy on the following considerations as justification and reasons:

i. Complementarity between production and consumption:

The need for strong complementarity between production and consumption points to ensure that produced foods get to consumers wherever they are in the region and also to bridge the differences arising from ecological diversity of the region e.g. rainfall of 300mm in the North and 4000mm in the South;

ii. Effective Natural Resource Management:

Many natural resources such as rivers, biodiversity reserves and underground aquifers span over West African countries requiring cooperation over their management, exploitation and protection;

iii. Regional Collaboration:

Globalization trends implying that the region has to develop a higher competitive potential than its individual nations and therefore a need for regional collaboration

iv. Increase in food prices:

Rises in food prices in 2007-2008, threatened food security requiring re establishing the bases for agricultural development in the region over and above the national interests

5.0. ECOWAP: The Vision and the Objectives

5.1. The Vision of ECOWAP

The vision of the ECOWAP is to ensure the evolvement of a modern and sustainable agriculture, based on the effectiveness and efficiency of family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises through the involvement of the private sector and through the instrumentality of investment programming and planning (expressed by NAIP, RAIP) as well as trade harmonization, etc.

Once productivity and competitiveness on the intra-community and international markets are achieved, the policy should be able to guarantee food security and secure decent incomes for agricultural workers". The Vision suggests agriculture that is modern in terms of inputs and machinery; based on capacity development of small scale farmers, makes agriculture a business concern and involves non state actors partnering with governmental bodies for efforts to achieve adequate food for West Africans.



Modernized farm tools provide economic incentives and sustains Earth's ecosystems.

⁶Source: ECOWAP

5.2. The Goal and Objectives of ECOWAP:

The critical goal of ECOWAP is to contribute in a sustainable way to meeting the food needs of the population, to economic and social development, to the reduction of poverty in the Member States, and thus to reduce existing inequalities among territories, zones and nations.

The specific objectives include:

- i. Food security for people in the region;
- ii. Reducing food dependence and achieving food sovereignty;
- iii. Involving producers in markets;
- iv. Creating jobs with guaranteed incomes in order to improve living conditions and services in rural areas;
- v. Intensifying production systems in a sustainable manner;
- vi. Reducing the vulnerability of West African economies by limiting factors of instability and regional insecurity;
- vii. Adopting appropriate funding mechanisms.

5.3. The Themes of ECOWAP

Within the formulation of ECOWAP, the following three themes are highlighted:

- i. Increasing the productivity and competitiveness of West African agriculture to improve food security, increase producer incomes and recognise their status, and reduce poverty.
- ii. Implementing a trade regime within West Africa and
- iii. Adapting the trade regime vis-à-vis countries outside the region [both] to facilitate access to regional and international markets to dispose of the increased volume of produce generated by the modernisation of the region's production systems.



6.0. ECOWAP Key Investment Priority Areas

In July 2005, ECOWAS drew up a regional action plan for the implementation of ECOWAP and CAADP/NEPAD covering the period 2006-2010. The action plan which falls within the RAIP was based on six priority areas for a joint implementation. These six areas were selected based on their capacity to help reduce poverty and food insecurity and contribute to regional integration, as well as their short- and medium-term feasibility.

The priority areas of investment within the RAIP include:

1. Improved water management, by (i) promoting irrigation (ii) integrated water resource management;
2. Improved management of other natural resources through (i) organised transhumance and rangeland development; (ii) sustainable forest resources management; (iii) sustainable fishery resources management;
3. Sustainable agricultural development at the farm level through (i) integrated soil fertility management (ii) better support services for producers, (iii) dissemination of improved technologies;
4. Developing agricultural supply chains and promoting markets by (i) developing the different supply chains (food crops, peri-urban agriculture, export crops, short-cycle livestock rearing, agro-forestry food products, artisanal fishing and fish farming); (ii) developing processing operations, (iii) strengthening support services for operators, (iv) promoting national, international and regional trade;
5. Preventing and managing food crises and other natural disasters by (i) promoting early warning systems, (ii) developing crisis management systems, (iii) assisting the recovery of crisis-hit areas, (iv) formulating mechanisms for disaster related insurance and compensation;
6. Institution building through (i) gender-sensitive approaches, (ii) support for capacity building in the formulation of agricultural and rural policies

and strategies, (iii) long-term funding for agriculture, (iv) communication, (v) capacity building in steering and coordination, (vi) capacity building in monitoring and evaluation.



7.0 Major Milestones in the Implementation of ECOWAP

There are some highlights that have been credited to major achievements of the ECOWAP, especially as enumerated by the ECOWAS Commission. These include but not limited to:

- i. The adoption of the ECOWAP in January 2005 by the 28th Head of State and Government Meeting. This is deemed as an achievement given that hurdles in the process of harmonization were easily and gradually overcome to give way to a common policy framework that fully derogates and accepts CAADP.
- ii. The creation of policy implementing organs and plans at the regional level such as Federating and Mobilizing Programme under which is the Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP); and at the national level such as National Agricultural Investment Programme (14 NAIP except Guinea Bissau) under which is the Detailed Agricultural Investment Plan (2011-2015) alongside many policies and regulatory instruments such as CP1-CP3 and a framework for M&E, coordination and governance.
- iii. Creation of detailed Results Based Management framework for the regional plan with 1 goal, 3 objectives and 10 outputs.

- iv. Many member states have attained high level implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process (e.g. Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ghana, etc.).
- v. Under Component 1 of RAIP, Production and productivity has been increased through the implementation of the following projects:
 - a. Regional Program to Support Agricultural Intensification and Pastoral West Africa;
 - b. ECOWAS Rice Offensive;
 - c. West African Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAP);
 - d. West African Seed Program by CORAF;
 - e. West African Fertilizer Program by IFDC; ECOAGRIS Support Project;
 - f. Transformation of the Livestock, Meat and dairy value chain; and
 - g. West African Action Plan on Biotechnology and Biosafety.
- vi. Under component 2 of RAIP, creation of suitable regional market, ECOWAS as common Market and Regional Value Chains Associations through the following projects:
 - a. Regional Program to Support ECOWAS Markets Regulation;
 - b. ECOAGRIS Support Project;
 - c. Support Project to Regional Action Plan to combat fruit flies;
 - d. Regional Input Market Project;
 - e. West Africa Agribusiness and Trade Promotion Program.
- vii. Under the same component 2, ECOWAS has also regulated the following:
 - a. Seeds (CORAF/WECA: to implement the establishment of the West African Seed Committee + ASIWA + Seed Catalogue);
 - b. Fertilizer (Regulation adopted that IFAD should implement the West African Commitment for fertilizer quality control);
 - c. pesticides (CILSS to implement the establishment of the West African Pesticide Registration and Homologation Committee);
 - d. veterinary drugs/medicaments (product);
 - e. SPS, Biosafety; and common external tariffs (CET) and has some soft infrastructures in

place-Trade barriers, Private Sector, Advocacy and Lobbying.

viii. Under component 3, ECOWAS has reduced vulnerability and increased resilience through:

- a. adoption of ECOWAS Food Reserve Initiative,
- b. ECOWAS Hunger Initiative,
- c. Food Crisis Prevention Charter, and
- d. Regional Food Safety Net program;
- e. EU support project to the Food reserve program;
- f. Regional social safety net program;
- g. "AGIR" Initiative targeting the ZERO Hunger Objectives;
- h. ECOAGRIS;
- i. Climate Change Action Plan Support Project; and
- j. Food Security Support Program.

- e. Consultative committee for agriculture and food;
- f. Inter Departmental Committee for Agriculture and food and ECOWAS Donor Group (have regular meetings of about 3 times a year).



ix. Other achievements which cut across Nutrition, Gender, Regional Standards, Trade and capacity building include:

- a. The ECOWAS ZERO Hunger Initiative;
- b. The ECOWAS Zero Hunger Support project by FAO;
- c. PAN-SPSO & VET by AU-IBAR;
- d. CET of ECOWAS;
- e. Toxins Management;
- f. Networking of Laboratories for Inspection and Quality Control; and
- g. AGIR, RPCA

x. Several institutional and financial mechanisms and implementation structures have been made available to assist the implementation of ECOWAP, and these include:

- a. Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food;
- b. ECOWAS Agriculture and food Development fund;
- c. ECOWAP M&E Mechanisms (regional and national);
- d. Specialized technical committee for agriculture, environment and water resources;

xi. Institutional support has been provided through:

- a. the Strategic Operational Plan of the Agriculture & Rural Development Directorate;
- b. support to the operationalization of the RAAF/ARAA and ECOWADF-Lome;
- c. recruitment of staffs for RAAF/ARAA;
- d. development of Operational Manuals and Guides;
- e. Africa-Lead program—West Africa Component supporting RAAF-EBID;
- f. M&E Support Project; and
- g. regional capacity building support project

xii. The ECOWAP Group achieved consultation coordination, Information sharing and monitoring through Lead and Coordination;

- a. 4 or more formal meetings organized since 2012;
- b. criteria of regional project defined;
- c. Gaps in implementation identified;
- d. regular attendances/ contributions; and Memberships to relevant associations.

- xiii. Cooperation between the three main regional intergovernmental Organization- ECOWAS; CILSS; UEMOA with the support of partners and NSAs have yielded the following major products: AGIR; ZERO HUNGER; RICE OFFENSIVE; FOOD RESERVE: ECOAGRIS; Adaptation to Climate; Food Security Prevention Network: RPCA; and Programs

8.0 Partnership in Implementing the ECOWAP



President Muhammad Buhari Accompanied by the Kebbi State Governor, Senator Atiku Bagudu, CBN Governor Mr Godwin Emeziele and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbah at the flag of Dry season rice and wheat farming anchored by CBN Borrowers' Programme in Brini Kebbi State.

Member states of ECOWAS, aid and international organisations, socio-professional actors and NGOs are united in prioritising the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP and pushing for investment in the production sector and more generally, agri-foodstuff supply chains.

8.1 Key Technical Partners

The technical partners collaborating with ECOWAS include FAO; SAHILAND WEST AFRICA; OECD; Le HUB Rural; CILSS; Songhai Centre- Benin; ReSAKSS; AU/IBAR; CMA/AOC; IFPRI-DAKAR; Economic Commission for Africa; FARA; AfricaRice; IFDC and ofcourse ECOWAS.

As at 2013, ECOWAP programs were funded with donations from USAID; aacid; DFID; European Commission and EDF; DGIS/Netherlands; Canadian International Development Agency; World Bank; AFD; etc. with ECOWAP Donors Group as the Coordination Body.

8.2 Key ECOWAS NSAs Involved in the Implementation of ECOWAP

Some of the partners involved in the implementation of the ECOWAP are regional value chain Associations and Non State Actors. These include:

- I. APESS (Livestock and Pastoralism);
- ii. COFENABVI-AO (Meat/Ruminant);
- iii. UOFA-AO & PAN (Poultry);
- iv. AFAO/WAWA (gender);
- v. BILLITAL/MAAROOBE (pastoralism/Transhumance)
- vi. AFSTA (Seed);
- vii. ROPPA (Farmers Leadership);
- viii. ROAC (cereals); POSCAO (civil society);
- ix. RESIMAO (Market Information)
- x. NANTS (Traders Association);
- xi. CropLife (Pesticides);
- xii. CORET (Pastoralism/Conflict Resolution);
- xiii. REPAO (Fisheries); etc

9.0 Conclusion

ECOWAP/CAADP indeed has the capacity to make food security sustainable in the region. However, knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking and monitoring are the core of the various programs designed to achieve their objectives. Further, to achieve food security and resilience, ECOWAS and partners require stronger and more sustainable commitment financially and politically.

Indeed, the role of NSAs becomes more critical even as ECOWAS plans ahead towards 2025. There is need for concerted advocacy, sensitization, as well as effective monitoring of the ECOWAP implementation particularly from the NSAs who are regarded as the watchdog of the ECOWAS citizens.





RECENT AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Private Sector Investments in Nigeria's Agric Sector

November 20, 2015

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has disclosed that private sector investments in the country's agric sector has reached about N760 billion in the last two years. www.dailyindependentnig.com

Sokoto Agro-Investor to establish N50bn Food Processing Factory

Sokoto State government and Erisco Foods Ltd. have partnered to set up a committee for the establishment of a N50bn food processing factory in the state. <http://agronigeria.com.ng>



Produce Sellers Ask FG to Provide Storage Facilities

Produce dealers in Nigeria have appealed to the Federal Government to establish more storage facilities to minimize wastage of agriculture products. <http://leadership.ng/news/agriculture/>



The 2015 Nigeria Agriculture Awards

The Nigerian Agriculture Awards (NAA), an annual event powered by AgroNigeria is aimed at recognizing and rewarding men, women, businesses and institutions who have

contributed to Nigeria's re-emergence as a veritable force in agriculture. <http://agronigeria.com.ng>



Chemical Approach not Solution to T. Absoluta - Investigation

Nov. 18, 2015

Claims by a few agro-chemical companies that they possess potent chemicals that can eliminate Tuta Absoluta (Tomato Leafminer) have been debunked. <http://agronigeria.com.ng>



PMB flags off dry season farming, launches N20bn CBN loan in Kebbi

True to his statement that he would revive agriculture by building on the policies of the past administration, President Muhammadu Buhari demonstrated the Federal Government's commitment to agriculture by officially flagging off dry season rice and wheat farming in Kebbi state and also launching a N20bn Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) which the Central Bank of Nigeria has set aside for rice farmers across the country. <http://agronigeria.com.ng>

RECENT AGRICULTURAL NEWS CONT.

Farmers told to access CBN intervention fund

The All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) in Lagos advised members to develop agri-business proposals to access the N200 billion Central Bank of Nigeria's intervention fund...read more on:

<http://tungamediang.com/topics/agric..>



For the nation to experience self-sustenance and food security, an agricultural expert, there is a call for a revolution in the agricultural sector. <http://tungamedian.com/topics/agric..>

Farmers in Delta call for Silos



The All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) in Delta has appealed to the state government to provide facilities for the preservation of farm produce to reduce losses farmers suffer.

<http://leadership.ng/news/agriculture/>

NCAM Trains Fadama Cassava Farmers in Kogi



The National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation (NCAM), Ilorin has organised a training programme for cassava production cluster farmers in Kogi state. <http://leadership.ng/news/agriculture/>

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