



ECHOES

from Food Stocks

Quarterly Information Newsletter of the Regional Food Security Reserve

In this issue

Editorial	1
The physical stock of the Regional Reserve taking shape	1
Intervention in the North East of Nigeria	2
Support for national storage policies and RESOGEST	3
A Manual of procedures for the Regional Food Reserve	3
Towards effective agricultural information systems	4
Contingency plans for food and nutrition security	4
A Code of good practice for food storage	5
A communication campaign with and for farmers	5
The Regional Reserve in a nutshell!	6

The physical stock of the Regional Food Reserve taking shape

As part of the implementation of the Food Reserve, it is envisaged to build a first physical stock of 60 000 tons of cereals and nutritional products for the first period of 4 years. The European Union contributes to the operationalization of the Regional Reserve through the funding of a Food Security Storage Support Project in West Africa totaling 56 million Euros to help mobilize 31 500 tons, about half

of the planned physical stocks. The remaining quantities of food products will be mobilized with the ECOWAS own funds.

Food storage and maintenance is entrusted to national public food security storage companies on the basis of service provision agreements on behalf of ECOWAS. To this end, a call for tender for the reception, control,



Photo © ARAA / Food Reserve, 2017

storage and maintenance services of the stocks of the Physical Reserve launched in 2016 resulted in the selection of 7 national storage companies, namely SONAGESS in

Burkina Faso, NAFCO in Ghana, OPAM in Mali, OPVN in Niger, FRSD in Nigeria, CSA in Senegal and ANSAT in Togo for the four-selected storage sub-areas: East, Center, Ctd. page 2

No 1, December 2017

Editorial



The Forty-Second Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS held in Yamoussoukro in Côte d'Ivoire in February 2013 took an Additional Act to the Revised Treaty of ECOWAS to create the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR). The implementation of this Reserve has not yet benefited from the financial support required for its operationalization on the ECOWAS own resources. However, with the support of technical and financial partners, the first steps towards the implementation of this crucial tool of the Region to cope with food and nutritional crises have started. Thanks to the support of the European Union that funds the West African Food Security Storage Support Project with € 56 million, various mechanisms for the implementation of this Reserve as well as first physical stocks have also been put in place. A test of the Reserve's support to an ECOWAS member country was carried out in the north-eastern States of Nigeria facing a major food and nutrition crisis.

The financial support of the European Union as well as the technical support from AFD, AECID and CILSS made it possible to back up the implementation of the Regional Food Security Strategy with the simultaneous reinforcement of the three lines of defense namely: local stocks, national stocks and the Regional Food Security Reserve. This support also strengthens national and regional agricultural information systems with the deployment of ECOAGRIS and the decision support and

Intervention in the North East of Nigeria: a concrete action of regional solidarity

Following the Nigerian Government's request through an official letter to the President of the ECOWAS Commission dated 24 September 2016 requesting for support for the populations of the North-East of Nigeria in a food and nutrition crisis, ECOWAS, in consultation with

its partners, responded positively by mobilizing cereals from the Food Reserve. A quantity of 1,130 tons of cereals (730 tons of millet, 200 tons of maize and 200 tons of sorghum) was delivered on 8 August 2017 to NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) for the populations



of Borno, Gombe, Adamawa and Yobe States. A second contribution of 690 tons of rice is progress to better meet the eating habits of the assisted populations. Thus, the total support of ECOWAS and its partners will be 1820 tons of cereals.

While receiving the cereals on August 8 2017 on behalf of the Government of Nigeria, NEMA's Director General, Mr Mustapha Maihajja and the acting Director of NEMA Assistance and Rehabilitation, Mr Kayode Fagbemi, expressed their gratitude to the

ECOWAS Commission and the European Union, the financial partner of the Food Security Storage Support project for this humanitarian assistance.

As a reminder, the assessment of the food and nutrition situation carried out in August 2016 with the Harmonized Framework tool in the three (03) States of the North East of Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) affected by the food and nutrition crisis showed that 4,448,000 people of whom 65,000 were at risk of starvation. 

editorial ctd.

strengthening mechanism of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF).

This first issue of the newsletter provides an update on the overall implementation status of the Food Reserve and the European Union support project.

This newsletter, which can call for your comments and questions, is a platform for exchange in the construction process of regional solidarity in favor of people at risk of food and nutrition crises in an environment increasingly plagued by the consequences of climate change and civil insecurity.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the technical and financial partners for their support for the operationalization of the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Reserve. I particularly commend the European Union for funding the Food Security Storage Support project in West Africa.

I wish you all the best for the New Year 2018!

Mr. Ousseini Salifou

Executive Director of the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

The operationalization of the Regional Fund for the Development of Agriculture (ECOWADF) whose mission is to support the development of the agricultural sector and thus, allow the Regional Food Reserve to fully play its role is a MUST.

page 2 ctd.

West Atlantic and Gulf Atlantic. Service contracts have been signed or are being signed for a total storage volume of 42,500 tons. Infrastructure compliance has been verified by an internationally recognized independent company hired by the project. Warehouses with a total storage capacity of 87,100 tons have been inspected. The warehouses declared compliant and able to receive the products of the RFSR have a total capacity of 54 600 tons.

As of today, the Regional Food Reserve has a physical stock of 11 178.5 tons of cereals

(millet, maize, sorghum, rice) consisting of 2,750 tons stored in Yendi in Ghana, 2,750 tons in Dédougou in Burkina Faso, 3 500 tons in Dosso and Zinder in Niger and 1 048.5 in Gombe in Nigeria.

This stock comes from a first call for tenders launched in June 2016. The contracting process with suppliers for a second call for tenders for a volume of 21,000 tons is being finalized and deliveries will occur between January and March 2018.

With this progressive constitution of the physical stock of the RFSR, ECOWAS is in

the process of strengthening its capacity and building the foundation of a structural regional solidarity for food and nutrition security. 

As a reminder, the assessment of the food and nutrition situation carried out in August 2016 with the Cadre Harmonisé tool in the three (03) states of North East Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) that are affected by the food and nutrition crisis showed that 4,448,000 people, including 65,000 children, were at risk of starvation.

A manual of procedures is necessary for the Regional Food Security Reserve

Since the start of the operationalization of the Regional Food Reserve in 2015 through the food security storage support project, the Reserve Management Technical Unit has been working hard to facilitate the establishment of governance bodies and other management instruments of the Reserve, including the Management Committee and the Manual of procedures.

Indeed, the Manual of procedures is one of the first instruments for the management of the Reserve. It clearly defines the management procedures for the physical and financial components of the Reserve. To this end, a consultant recruited and committed to this task met and discussed with several actors intervening in the Reserve. This includes among others, ECOWAS (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Directorate of Humanitarian Affairs), Directorate of Legal Affairs, EBID) and AFD.

In order to widen this base of consultation, RAAF organized on June 30th, 2017, a consultation workshop on the implementation

The RESOGEST Cooperation Framework includes the establishment of a regional solidarity mechanism inclusive of “The constitution by each country, within the national stock of food security, of at least 5% movable in the form of loans or transfer for free or payable, to meet the needs of other countries facing a food crisis in which national stocks are insufficient.”

of the Reserve (ROPPA, APSS, RBM, SONAGESS, etc.) in order to enrich the Manual of procedures under development.

The views expressed by participants during the workshop will be considered by the consultant in the final drafting of the manual of procedures which will be validated during a regional workshop. A ministerial meeting is also planned to deliberate on the Regulation establishing the Regional Reserve Management Committee. 

Support for national storage policies and RESOGEST



Component 2 of the Food Security Storage Support Project in West Africa is mainly geared towards strengthening national food security stocks. It is implemented by the Member States with the support of RAAF and under the leadership of RESOGEST (Network of Public Companies in charge of the Management of National Stocks of Food Security in the Sahel and West Africa) which also benefits from specific supports.

The first annual meeting of RESOGEST held in October 2016 in Lomé, Togo, made it possible to revitalize it and adopt a roadmap.

The By-laws and rules of procedure were adopted at the General Assembly held in Accra, Ghana from October 16 to 17, 2017. The second annual meeting held on October 18, 2017 provided an update on the implementation of the activities of the project and the national food security stocks. Discussions in Accra also reviewed the three-year action plan (2018-2020) and provided a reminder for a quick handling of Memoranda of Understanding to be signed by each State with ECOWAS within the framework of the support that the project plans to provide to RESOGEST members.

The planned support for the countries concerns mainly (i) assistance to countries to acquire or update their national storage policies, (ii) capacity building of the national stock management companies, (iii) adoption of the code of management procedures; and (iv) training stocks managers.

The UEMOA Commission, a major stakeholder in the implementation of the regional strategy, has mobilized resources from its own funds for the construction

of storage facilities for the benefit of its 8 Member States. These warehouses strengthen public storage capacities and could be mobilized for storing the products of the Food Reserve. 

The mobilization and replenishment procedures, as well as the financial management of the stock and logistics will be studied and specified in the framework of the ECOWAS Regional Storage Strategy.

Towards Effective National and Regional Agricultural Information Systems

The regional institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, RESIMAO, CORAF, Africa Rice) adopted in June 2013 a cooperation framework for the implementation of the regional agricultural information system ECOAGRIS (ECOWAS Agricultural Regional Information System). Component 4 of the support project contributes to this goal.

The strengthening of national and regional systems aims at (i) providing all countries with basic information systems on the food and nutrition situation in order to reliably feed into the Harmonized Framework analyses, which are necessary for the establishment of food security plans, national response to cyclical crises and requests to the Regional Reserve in the event of a major crisis, (ii) strengthening processing and analysis capacities, (iii) developing household economy surveys and (iv) connecting national systems and develop regional databases in the decision support system as well as monitoring and evaluation of the regional agricultural policy, ECOWAP. The activities of ECOAGRIS component are implemented within the

Contingency plans for a better management of food and nutrition security

With a view to improving efficiency in the governance of the Regional Reserve on the one hand and in the region's response to food crises on the other, ECOWAS, through the Food Security Storage Support Project in West Africa, launched in late October 2017, a series of studies to analyze and capitalize on good practices to develop or revise guidelines for national contingency plans for the 17 ECOWAS/CILSS countries and recommendations for a regional contingency plan. These case studies specifically cover 6 countries namely Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Field missions are ongoing to allow the consortium (Polytechnic University of Madrid and Oxfam Intermon) in charge of these studies to take stock of the specific situation of the actors identified and involved in the development of contingency plans. More precisely, these studies aim at (i) capitalizing on good practices and lessons learnt from previous experiences, (ii) providing methodological rules for the development or revision of contingency plans, (iii) supporting the revision and / or development of national contingency plans and (iv) supporting the development of a regional contingency plan.

According to the specifications, it is expected that the capitalization of the experiments will be done in two areas, namely the national prevention systems and the management of food and nutritional crises. 

The financial component of the reserve is essential. It accounts for two-thirds of the total calibration of the RFSR. It allows on the one hand financing the ancillary costs of management and mobilization of the physical stock, and on the other hand to consider interventions of the RFSR with instruments other than the physical stock: cash transfers, supply of cattle feed etc. in order to organize a crisis response adapted to the diversity of situations.

Once operational, the ECOWAS Agricultural Information System (ECOAGRIS) should continue to facilitate the decision making process for an effective management of the food and nutrition security in West Africa.

framework of a direct agreement between the regional center AGRHYMET of CILSS and the Delegation of the European Union of Niamey. In addition, the signature of the agreements between AGRHYMET and the countries represented by the ECOAGRIS National Committees is planned.

To date, conventions have been signed with sixteen (16) of the seventeen (17) countries concerned, namely the fifteen (15) ECOWAS countries plus Mauritania and Chad. The ECOAGRIS platform has been designed and validated. The settlement of the platform is being operationalized in countries like the five pilot countries. The surveys on

the collection of new primary data and nutrition are effective, the two cycles of training in microcomputers and networks are functional. Analyses of the Harmonized Framework have been reinforced through the extension of the analyses of the household economy. The ECOAGRIS component has particularly innovated on the HEA (Household Economy Analysis). As a matter of fact, it has introduced the analysis in the coastal countries by the development of livelihood zone maps as well as the training and the effective development of benchmarks and results analysis for better control and resilience management in West Africa.

Finally, in connection with the management of food stocks, a methodology for monitoring local stocks has been produced and validated.

Once fully operational in all its dimensions, the ECOAGRIS information system should continue to facilitate decision-making for more effective management of food and nutrition security in West Africa, as in the case of the Harmonized Framework tool that consensually proceeds to the development of the map of acute food and nutritional vulnerability as well as the quantification of populations in situations of current or projected vulnerability. 

A code of good practice is needed for food and nutrition storage

Conscious of the challenges related to the implementation of the Reserve in terms of governance and management, ECOWAS launched a capitalization study on good practices for stock management on 18 July 2017 in Lomé, Togo, as part of the implementation of the EU-funded support project.

This study is contracted to GRAD Consulting Group with the main objective of capitalizing on good practices in the management of food reserves at local (local stocks) and national (national security stocks) levels. At the end of its mission, GRAD Consulting Group should deliver to ECOWAS (i) a country report on the management of national stocks and the management of local stocks, (ii) a regional synthesis of good practices of national stock management, (iii) a regional summary on good practices for managing local stocks and (iv) a code of practice for the management of food and nutritional security stocks.

This study, which covers 8 countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana,

An information and communication campaign with and for farmers' organizations

As part of the capacity building program for producers, the Food Security Storage Support Project in West Africa includes, among other things, information and communication actions enabling specialized producers' organizations to efficiently respond to calls for tenders for the supply of the Regional Food Reserve. This will be achieved through an information campaign.

The campaign for producers and agribusiness processors is led by a consortium led by Oxfam Intermon with the main objective of informing, advising and training producers and processors' organizations in ECOWAS and Sahel countries on the modalities of supply and reconstitution of the Regional Food Reserve.

Its preparation consists of (i) producing communication tool (an adapted version of the bidding documents, capitalizations of experiments, a strategic and informative watch, a quarterly newsletter, dynamic training tools) and (ii) the setting up of interactive information and communication tools (website, "mailing list", distribution list or a directory of addresses for the

dissemination of emails, the creation of a Facebook page and the animation of a remote support-advice service, a Help Desk).

The preparation of this campaign is scheduled to end this year to allow the consortium and its partners to interact directly from 2018, with producers' organizations that have been selected. 

The European Union is funding the Food Security Storage Support Project for 56 million Euros. Delegates for managing the funds for ECOWAS are AFD and AECID for the implementation of components 1, 2, 3, and 5. CILSS Regional Center AGRHYMET has signed a direct convention with the Delegation of the European Union of Niger and receives direct financial resources for the implementation of component 4 of the project.

The preparation of the information campaign on the Reserve is scheduled to end in December 2017 to allow the consortium and its partners to interact directly, from 2018, with the farmers' organizations that have been selected.

Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, would enable ECOWAS to have a draft code of good practice on the management of food reserves that will be submitted to the Member States for validation and adoption. 



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The Regional Reserve in a nutshell!

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- The Forty-Second Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS member countries, created the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR) on February 28, 2013 by Additional Act N° A / SA.2 / O2 // 13 to the ECOWAS Revised Treaty.
- It is the third line of defense to prevent and manage food crises. It is complementary to local stocks (the first line of defense at the village and community level) and national food security stocks (second line of defense) owned by the States.
- It (i) complements the efforts of the Member States to provide rapid and diversified food and nutrition assistance, (ii), it expresses regional solidarity with Member States and affected populations through transparent, equitable and predictable mechanisms, (iii), it contributes to food sovereignty and to the political, economic and trade integration of West Africa.
- It intervenes mainly in the form of loans or disposals for free of food or financial resources decided by the Management Committee. These interventions express regional solidarity and the region's contribution to response or contingency plans designed by countries in response to food crises.
- It consists of a physical reserve (1/3) and a financial reserve (2/3).

The operationalization of the Regional Fund for the Development of Agriculture (ECOWADF) whose mission is to support the development of the agricultural sector and thus, allow the Regional Food Reserve to fully play its role is a MUST

With the financial support of the European Union



And the technical support of implementing partners



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