

# PARTNERS

Although often seen as beneficiaries, the fifteen Member States of ECOWAS are first and foremost the main partners of RAAF. To these must be added the regional players structured within technical cooperation institutions, socio-professional organizations, private companies and various technical and financial partners. With the support of these partners, ECOWAS, through RAAF, firmly believes that food security is possible in West Africa by 2025.



# HEADQUARTERS



In order to strengthen the facilities made available to the Agency and its staff by the host country, the Government of Togo has made available to RAAF a two-storey building serving as an office space. This space, located at 83, Rue de la Pâture (Super Taco) in Lomé, Togo, is a friendly working environment for RAAF staff, who moved in at the end of January 2016. Before this move, RAAF was housed within the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID). The Government of Togo's action strengthens institutional support from the development partners who chose to assist ECOWAS in establishing this Agency by financing its personnel, operation and equipment.

## CONTACT

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## REGIONAL AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

## MANDATE

Ensure technical assistance on programs and regional investment plans that contribute to the operationalization of the agricultural policy of the ECOWAS, relying on institutions, regional organizations and stakeholders with proven expertise.

# CONTEXT



Adopted in January 2005, ECOWAP is the agricultural policy of ECOWAS. This regional policy is an important reference in the implementation of the agricultural component of NEPAD in West Africa, ECOWAP/PDDAA. ECOWAP is the basis for a massive transformation of West African agriculture by the year 2025, in particular because of the predominant role of women in agricultural and fisheries production and value chains, and to youth in the context of high unemployment and illegal immigration.

The creation of RAAF in 2011 and its official launch in September 2013 are part of the operationalization of this regional agricultural policy. In addition to strengthening the capacities of the ECOWAS Commission bodies – in particular the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources and the Summit of Heads of State and Government – on a proposal from the Council Of Ministers, decided to establish a specialized technical structure, responsible for the management of ECOWAP projects and programs by Regulation C/REG.1/08/11.

# MISSION



The mission the ECOWAS Heads of State have entrusted to RAAF is unequivocal: to contribute to the implementation of ECOWAP's regional agricultural policy, whose vision is backed by modern and sustainable agriculture based on the efficiency and effectiveness of family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises through private sector involvement.

Specifically, RAAF's mission is to:

- Strengthen the technical capacity for intervention and action by the ECOWAS Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources in implementing investment programs to enable the Department to fully realize its regulatory role (regulation, monitoring and evaluation, strategic monitoring, etc.)
- Coordinate, from a rationalization perspective, the activities and fields of intervention of specialized technical institutions in the agricultural and agri-food sectors
- Contribute to capacity building for regional and national actors in the preparation of dossiers/projects and the implementation and follow-up on activities.

# STRATEGY

RAAF is responsible for coordinating and facilitating tasks related to implementing the regional agricultural policy. It does not directly carry out actions on the ground, but contracts with technical institutions and other actors of proven competency.

Within the framework of the projects it coordinates and with the support of its financial partners, RAAF directly finances projects in the field through calls for proposals, to be carried out by public and private sector actors, NGOs and farmer associations/organizations in the region.

RAAF mainly enacts its role by co-ordinating, supervising, framing, facilitating and linking/networking.

