



#Press Release#

Sharing experiences on the use of agro-hydro-climate information for more productive agriculture

From 16th to 17th August 2022, the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (ARAA/RAAF), in collaboration with the CILSS AGRHYMET Regional Centre, is organising a regional workshop to share experiences on the use of agro-hydro-climate information and its implications for agriculture.

West Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions of the world to the effects of climate variability and change. Extreme weather and climate events such as droughts, floods, variations in the dates of the beginning and end of the seasons and land degradation are the main realities that negatively impact agricultural productivity and the lives of thousands of households in West Africa.

Facing with this situation, ECOWAS relied on its Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP) adopted in 2005 and supplemented by its strategic program on vulnerability reduction and adaptation to climate change, to launch in June 2015 the West African Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (WACSAA). This must contribute to the efforts of the African Alliance aimed at the adoption of CSA practices by 25 million households by 2025. In this process, ECOWAS is collaborating closely with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and its specialized institutions, particularly the AGRHYMET Regional Centre which it has already endorsed with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as the Reference Climate Centre for West Africa and the Sahel (AGRHYMET-CCR/AOS).

Among other initiatives developed to address the climate challenge, ECOWAS is implementing, in partnership with CILSS, the Regional Project for the Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture in West Africa (AIC). This 3-year project is funded by the Adaptation Fund through the West African Development Bank (WADB/BOAD), and implemented by ARAA/RAAF, in the framework of the West African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance. It aims, on the one hand, to reduce the vulnerability of farmers and pastoralists to increased climate risks that hamper food security and, on the other hand, to strengthen income generation and the preservation of ecosystem services in poor communities.

The overall objective of the workshop is to serve as a framework for sharing experiences in the production, dissemination and use of agro-hydro-climate information, including agro-meteorological forecasts of agricultural seasons among stakeholders from the five (05) beneficiary countries of the project (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Togo).

To achieve these objectives and meet the needs of the initiative, emphasis will be placed on the project's intervention zones, to review the use of agro-hydro-climate information (particularly seasonal and meteorological forecasts) and its implications for agriculture at the local level.

For the Project Coordinator, **Mr. Jacques André Ndione**, *"it is important to build the capacity of actors on notions that are crucial and practical for producers, such as the dissemination/use of hydro-climate and agro-meteorological information, advice (particularly in the choice of the best practices to reduce risks and maximise profits linked to the agricultural season), and the ownership of information to reduce the most frequent constraints/limitations/difficulties for agriculture ».*



Lomé, Togo, 12th August 2022

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The expected results of the workshop that will be co-facilitated by experts from the AGRHYMET Regional Centre and ARAA/RAAF, in the presence of officials from national meteorological services, agriculture, livestock, water resources and producers' organisations from the five (05) project countries, include:

- ✓ experiences of the countries' meteorological services in the production, dissemination and communication of hydroclimate and agro-meteorological products and information for the agriculture and livestock sectors at national and local levels are shared and discussed,
- ✓ products, means and tools for dissemination/communication and use of seasonal forecasts are shared and their implications for agriculture discussed and understood,
- ✓ experiences of stakeholders in agriculture, livestock and water resources in using agro-hydro-climate information are shared,
- ✓ recommendations are made to address weaknesses and optimise the dissemination and use of agro-hydro-climate information in agricultural planning to minimise risks and maximise benefits related to crop seasons.

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