Project for the Promotion of Agroecological Innovations in West Africa (PAI-WA)



PRESENTATION SHEET

Context

West Africa remains highly vulnerable to population growth, the degradation of natural resources and the effects of climate change.
In this context, agroecology offers an approach that reconciles agricultural production, farm resilience, the preservation of ecosystems and the sustainability of food systems.

Many agroecological innovations tailored to specific regions have already been developed and tested; these relate in particular to soil restoration, water management, agroforestry, organic fertilisers and biopesticides.

However, their dissemination and scaling up remain limited by various obstacles, including the need to build the capacity of stakeholders, to produce and share best practice, to facilitate the exchange of experiences, and to create a more favourable institutional and political environment.

Furthering the West African Agroecology Programme (PAE; 2018–2025), the Project to Promote Agroecological Innovations in West Africa (PAI-WA) aims to contribute to an agroecological transition of West African agri-food systems by focusing on the dissemination of innovations, knowledge sharing, capacity building and the development of policies and institutional frameworks.

Implementation period
4 July 2024 – 31 December 2029 (66 months)

Location
12 ECOWAS Member States with operations in Niger

Sector
Agroecology and sustainable agriculture

Funding
EU : 10 000 000 €
AFD : 10 000 000€

Status
In progress

Objectives

Overall objective

To help increase the incomes and climate resilience of producers in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors by harnessing agroecological processes to sustainable intensification of production.



Specific Objective 1.

To increase productivity and output in the agro-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector, while preserving and restoring the state of cultivated and natural ecosystems, by promoting and intensifying innovations in agro-ecological transitions through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Specific Objective 2.

Promote the adoption of agroecological innovations by producers and SMEs through capitalization, video training/extension or digital training, dissemination, advocacy, public policies and institutional and regulatory frameworks favorable to agroecology.

Components of the PAI-WA

1. PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING INNOVATION

- Technical and financial support for 20 multi-stakeholder field projects (via a call for proposals)
- Capacity-building for the adaptation and dissemination of innovations
- Participatory trials, co-design of innovations, and dissemination to a critical mass of farmers and SMEs
- Capitalisation on and scaling up of good agroecological practices

2. TRAINING, EXCHANGES AND PUBLIC POLICY

- Training and knowledge-sharing (MOOCs, videos, advisory services)
- Regional consultations and advocacy to integrate agroecology into public policy (via the 3AO Alliance)
- Cross-cutting knowledge consolidation and a digital platform for knowledge-sharing

3. COORDINATION AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- Regional coordination of the project
- Monitoring and evaluation, financial management, support for project leaders
- Capacity-building for the RAAF and audits of field projects and other stakeholders



Implementation: a multi-actor approch

Governance and coordination

- **ECOWAS:** provides overall project oversight and coordinates its implementation at regional level, via it Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF).
- **The Regional Coordination Unit (RCU):** ensures the operational coordination of the Project, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and support to field projects.
- **IRAM-AVSF-INADES consortium:** provides technical assistance to ARAA and the RCU.
- **Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Union (EU):** provide funding for the Project, with AFD acting as the delegated entity for the European funds and alsfo providing additional funding.
- **The Regional Steering Committee (RSC):** chaired by ECOWAS, provides strategic guidance and oversight of the Project once a year.
- **The Specialised Technical Committee (STC):** brings together the main partners at least once a year and provides the technical guidance required for the implementation of the Project.

Implementation partners

- **20 multi-stakeholder field projects:** are led by consortia bringing together, in particular, farmers' organisations, research, training and advisory-support institutions, NGOs and/or SMEs to test, disseminate and scale up agroecological innovations.
- **The Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO):** organises regional consultations and contributes to advocacy for the integration of agroecology into public policies.
- **RESCAR-AOC:** contributes to strengthening the integration of agroecology into agricultural advisory services and to extending the network to new countries.
- **Regional University Consortium, led by Gaston Berger University:** delivers the sessions of the Agroecology MOOC adapted to the West African context.
- **Access Agriculture:** contributes to disseminating good practices and innovations through training and extension videos, particularly in local languages.

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ECOWAS Commission

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