



WAAPP REGIONAL E-NEWSLETTER

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The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program Newsletter

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FINANCE

WORLD BANK Grants additional funding to four WAAPP countries

The World Bank Board has approved additional funding for the first phase of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) in four countries of Benin, Togo, Niger, and Guinea under WAAPP-C series. The total amount approved by the World Bank Board on 3rd February, 2017 was about \$68million for the next three years to enable the WAAPP-C series countries to scale-up technologies that was generated and released in the countries and sub-region. The approval is based on the countries priority given to agricultural loan investment for World Bank sponsorship. With the approval, seven countries comprising of WAAPP-A series (Ghana, Mali and Senegal) and WAAPP-C series (Niger, Togo, Benin and Guinea) will continue to be more active in the sub-region agricultural programme. The approval is good news for CORAF/WECARD for excellent coordination of the sub-regional programme in the past eight years with positive impact on generation of

demand driven technologies, increase productivity, job creation to empower women and youths. It is worthy to note that results achieved under the WAAPP project in the past eight years is exemplary in the sub region as direct beneficiaries hit over 7millions in agricultural value chain (including 45% women) and over 30 million indirect beneficiaries, with observable increases in yields and incomes were reached at the end 2016. The program has generated over 177 Technologies and Innovations (T&Is) that produce yield increases of about 30% for dry cereals and 150% for roots and tubers and lowland/irrigated rice. These T&Is have been adopted by 4.8 million producers and processors on 4.5 million ha of cropping areas. Also, nine centers of specialization which were established have provided an opportunity for 1,021 young researchers to acquire master's or doctoral degree and are competing to become Regional Center of Excellence in line with ECOWAS framework.

President of Faso applauds women innovation platform on cowpea

Kongoussi, located 100 km north of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, hosted the closing ceremony of the International Year of Pulses, Friday 10 February 2017. President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, presided over the closing ceremony in the presence of Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The president of Burkina Faso took the opportunity to pay tribute to the women of the provincial union Namagbzanga (UPFN) of Kongoussi, an organization that supports the innovation platform on cowpea. The Deputy Director-General of FAO, on her part was simply amazed by the courage of women as she said «We saw leguminous fields where women are engaged and how they use these legumes to produce a wide variety of food. It's an example to share with other countries». In Burkina Faso, the 2017 crop year projection for

cowpea production is about seven hundred thousand tons, a forecast increase of 22% over the past season. This international year, declared by the United Nations Organization (UN), has made it possible in 2016 to raise awareness on the many nutritional benefits of legumes, stimulate their production, trade and encourage the search for new ways to use legumes throughout the food chain.

Kongoussi locality houses the cowpea innovation platform set up with the support of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP-Burkina Faso). This innovation platform won the award for the best innovation platform in West Africa in November 2015 in Dakar. The prize was awarded following a call for competition opened in 13 countries in the West African region under the aegis of the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) and the World Bank.



President of Burkina Faso chat with the women group



Albert kangah reaps reward of off-season plantain production and supply to supermarkets in côte d'ivoire



Consumers and customers express their preference for the improved variety produced by our plantain specialist, considering the attractive physical appearance and luscious taste that lend themselves to several dishes such as alloco, foutou, and stew. To diversify his activities, Albert ventured into plantain nursery, again, thanks to training on seed production technology offered by the WAAPP / PPAAO. Also, Albert supply plantain nursery to clients from all over the country as well as secured a contract with the Cocoa Coffee Council for the delivery of plantain plants for renewal of orchard. In addition, Albert train other producers and individuals wishing to invest in the production of plantain and one of them was Toh Salif. With 15 full-time employees, Albert oversees daily maintenance, watering, diet harvesting and plantain production. In addition to providing for his family, Albert has acquired a delivery vehicle worth CFAF 3 500 000 and is currently working on the construction of the company headquarters. It is worth recalling that implementation of WAAPP activities at the National Center of Specialization on plantain has made it possible to support actors in the value chain with relevant technologies and knowledge to improve productivity from 50% to 150% and income too.

Albert Kangah is a happy man for chosen to be a plantain food producer since 2012 instead of sticking to low paid white collar job. Specialized in the production of plantain in off-season since 2012, thanks to the support received from the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) of Cote d'Ivoire. He supplies plantain throughout the year in the shelves of supermarket in the city of Abidjan from peri urban family farm in Azaguié, precisely 45 km away from the economic capital, Abidjan. since 1997, Albert has been used to traditional techniques with low production and limited operating capital. His contact with PPAAO/WAAPP-Cote d'Ivoire in 2012 completely change his farming practices to a specialist in the cultivation of plantain by adopting the innovations of «off-season production through irrigation technology». The technologies practiced to increase his plantain production were spacing, leaf removal, use of litter, varieties PITA 3, FHIA 21 and Big Ebanga as well as dry season irrigation. With these technologies, his productivity increased from 4 tonnes/ha to 25 tonnes / ha. In Côte d'Ivoire, plantain production is marked with a period of abundance in markets that runs from October to March followed by shortage period from April to September. The production of plantain in off season allows Albert to produce all year round and make fortune.

With 15 hectares of plantain, his clients demand overwhelmed him from local market traders, homes as well as contract to supply plantain to supermarkets in Côte d'Ivoire. This development made Albert to shuttle the economic capital for the delivery of at least 0.5 tons of plantain per week to supermarkets, totaling 26.5 tons /year.



WAAPP-Mali Fund research infrastructure at national center of specialization on rice



The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Kassoum DENON lays the foundation stone

The West African Agricultural Productivity Program, Mali (WAAPP-Mali) has released more than two billion CFA Francs for the construction of the Food Technology Laboratory at Sotuba and Multimedia Center at Niono research centers of the Institute of Rural Economy, Bamako. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Kassoum Denon laid the foundation stone of the two buildings on 2nd and 6th December, 2016, to strengthen research capacity at the National Center of Specialization on Rice (NCoS-Rice). WAAPP-Mali intervention on physical infrastructure development is part of the component two objective on implementation of the WAAPP program which aims to strengthen the capacities of agricultural research institute with physical infrastructure towards transition to Regional Centers of Excellence. The construction of the buildings will improve the operational capacities of agricultural research fellows in rice production to obtain reliable research results and

contribute in the long term financial autonomy through internal revenue generation. With the construction of these infrastructures, the NCoS-Rice has taken a serious initiative towards its transition to Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE) in Rice. Indeed, the evolution of the NCoS to RCE is based on the satisfaction of nine performance criteria: the quality of equipment and infrastructures available, a program responding to national and regional demand, the research team, the existence of partnership and strategy for planning and implementing the program, the efficiency of the information and communication program, the contribution to capacity building of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems in West Africa, validation of research results, functional governance of the centre, ISO certification. It is important to note that the NCoS-rice of Mali has already fulfilled eight of the nine criteria required.



WAAPP-Mali set up fonio seed value chain platform for market competitiveness



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With the aim of creating a better organizational structure and competitiveness in Fonio seed value chain, WAAPP-Mali organized a stakeholders' forum to set up "Fonio value chain platform" to drive increase productivity and market competitiveness at national and international levels. The stakeholders' forum was attended by fifty (50) actors in the fonio value chain comprised of producers, processors, equipment manufacturers, researchers, supervisors, microfinance organizations, exporters, and traders came up on 06 and 07 December 2016 at the Niamana Training Center, Bamako. The stakeholder's forum served as a venue to identify constraints faced by the actors in value chain and the means to remedy them. The low level of good production practices, the difficulty experienced by processors in accessing good quality raw materials and packaging, the use of large quantities of fuelwood by processors, conformity of finished products to requirements of international markets are some of the problems facing the actors in the value chain. The workshop resulted in the establishment of the office of the "Fonio Platform" comprised of seventeen members, including eight women, and

chaired by Mariko Fadima Siby, promoter of UCODAL (Food Packaging Unit). The new office has an action plan whose main objective is to make the Malian fonio production and products more competitive. The mandate of the new committee members is to set action plan on the following priority areas: training of actors in good production practices, fonio transformation management, quality management, formalization of working relationships between processors and producer organizations through performance contracts, the establishment of a packaging and purchasing center, the publication of a brochure on fonio-based culinary recipes, the improvement of harvest and post-harvest techniques through the use of tarpaulins and equipment's for processing units in waste. Other task were reclamation technologies with a view to reducing environmental and health impacts related to the processing activity, awareness on alternatives to the use of wood such as fuel briquettes and other renewable energy sources, promote youth employment by facilitating access to improve fonio processing and processing technologies, and supporting them in setting up and running stores for the sale of processed local products.

Over 21,00 rice producers access nerica and sahel rice seed varieties which tripled yields in the casamance region

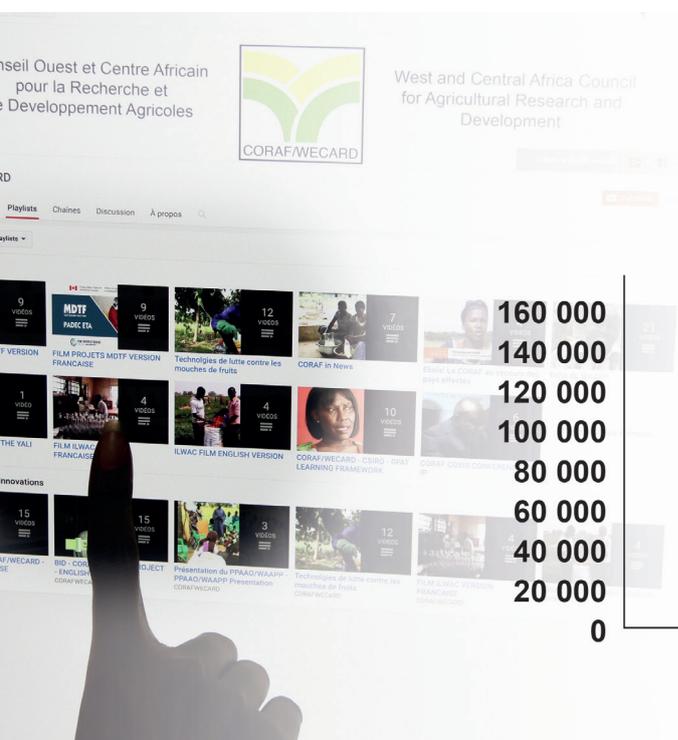
Access to rice seed varieties of Sahel and Nerica by 21,000 rice producers tripled their productivity from 1.5 tonnes per hectare to 5-6 tonnes per hectare to the delight of the beneficiaries in Basse Casamance area of Enampor, Tenghory. This was revealed during the eighth support and supervision mission of the World Bank team under the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP-Senegal) in October, 2016. The two varieties introduced since 2015 are characterized by short cycles of growth period “90 days for the Sahel variety and 70 days for the Nerica variety” which is ideal in farming areas with scarcity of rain fall as a check on climate change mitigation. According to Ibrahima Badiane, Director of National Agricultural and Rural Advisory Agency (ANCAR) in the Lower and Middle Casaman region, since the start of the project on the introduction of new rice varieties, there has been a rise in number of users put at 12,000 rice producers in in the region. Lankiane, an ANCAR beneficiary testified that “with the introduction of new seed varieties, yield have increased and tripled. Traditional varieties yields were 1.5 tonnes per hectare before the project, but under the project, now producers get 5 to 6 tonnes per hectare”. A female beneficiary from Badiate village near Essyl, Aïssatou Goudiaby told

the delegation that, she cultivated a plot of 0.5 hectares with the Sahel variety, enabled her and many families to achieve food self-sufficiency in rice, new varieties are very useful especially with insufficient rainfall. This year, I hope for more returns with twice yield like in 2015”. Also, Marie Manga, a rice grower and President of the Groupement de promotion feminine (GPF), was very grateful for the new varieties which enabled her to have a good yield in 2015. They are of very good quality and will contribute to the achievement of food self-sufficiency.» The mayor of Enampor, Khalifa Bassène, and the chief of the village of Essyl, Julien Bassène, said that yields should have been higher if the 16-km long dam had crossed the village of Essyl. Similar positive testimonies were given by rice producers in Nialor, a village near Tenghory, in the area of Bignona, They World Bank team expressed their satisfaction to the rice producers in the southern part of the country for appreciating the effort of WAAPP-Senegal. They informed rice producers that the came to see the state of implementation of the projects financed by WAAPP. The project is financed by the WAAPP-Senegal through the National Fund for Agricultural and Food Research (FNRAA) worth nearly CFAF 350 million and implemented by the ANCAR.

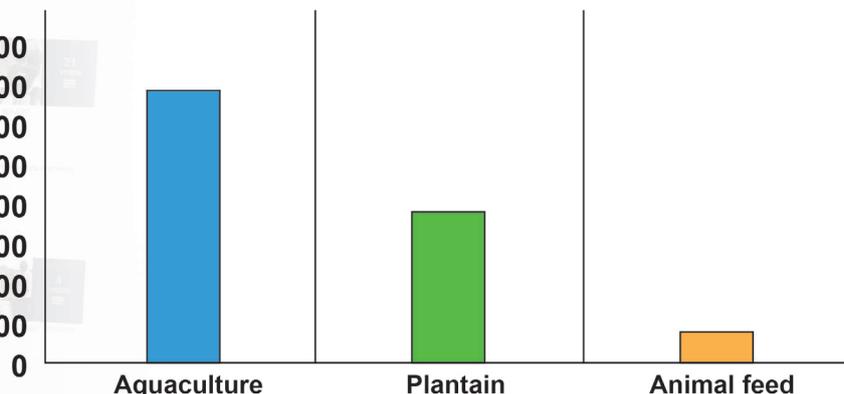


The World Bank and WAAPP-Senegal team on the spot visit on plot of rice in Casamance region, Senegal

Aquaculture video draws more than 135000 views



MOST POPULAR CORAF/WECARD VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE



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More than 135000 people have viewed a CORAF/WECARD video on aquaculture technologies on fish feed, processing, and tilapia as at 31st January, 2017. In addition to the aquaculture video, other popular videos were one on plantain and animal feed formulation. This is just one of 82 videos on the CORAF YouTube channel on the internet and illustrates the power of video to reach large audiences. YouTube is where the world goes to watch videos and because of that CORAF/WECARD decided to create videos and put them on YouTube as a way to reach out to people in the 23 countries in West and central Africa under CORAF/WECARD jurisdiction. The 82 videos promote agricultural technologies, highlight success stories of beneficiaries, and give visibility to development partners.

Most of the technologies featured in the videos were outputs of research funded and coordinated under the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) and Multi Donor Trust Fund (MTDF) from Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Benin, and Cameroon. The 5 to 10 minutes' videos cut across different sectors of

agriculture; crops, livestock, aquaculture innovations to support food security, climate change, entrepreneurship, gender empowerment.

All the videos are produced in both French and English. YouTube data show some differences in viewer preferences based on language. Fifty-two percent of the views were on French language videos and forty-five percent on English language. Analytical data from YouTube on viewership of the CORAF/WECARD channel show that nearly 1400 individuals subscribe to the channel and are likely regular viewers. So far, the channel has logged nearly 300,000 individual views of the videos.

The next step is to make sure the most valuable audiences know about the channel and making extra efforts to inform the CORAF/WECARD network of researchers, extension, platforms, NGOs, women, youths, and farmers in the sub-region. YouTube has more than 1.3 billion users and is the third most visited social media site on the Internet with over 30 million daily visits. The CORAF/WECARD YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CORAFWECARD>.

Forty fish farmers trained on sustainable integrated aquaculture in Nigeria



Female beneficiaries of IAR4D Training with organiser held at NCoS-NIFFR, Nigeria

Forty practicing fish farmers of which 14 were women in New Bussa and environ in Niger State, Nigeria, has undergone training on sustainable integrated fish aquaculture with rice and poultry production. The training was organised under the project “Integrated Fish Culture Project: Fish and Rice Cum Poultry” which was funded by West & Central African Council for Agricultural Research & Development (CORAF/WECARD), Dakar, Senegal under Multi Donors Trust Fund (MDTF) to promote Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D). The essence of the three days training was to empower participants with knowledge on the following eight areas in integrated aquaculture enterprise: production techniques in integrated aquaculture; economics of integrated aquaculture system; design and construction of integrated fish farm, management of water quality under integrated aquaculture, profitable poultry production under integration; rice production under integrated aquaculture; health management in integrated aquaculture, sustainable waste utilisation in integrated aquaculture, value addition options in integrated aquaculture. Most of the beneficiaries were drawn from the WAAPP adopted villages under National Centre of Excellence (NCoS-Aquaculture) namely New Bussa, Tungan Alhaji Danbaba, Monai, Yankede, Musawa, Tunga Maruwa, Tatabu and Dokia.

Other beneficiaries were the two secondary schools under the Agricultural Research Outreach Centres (AROC) namely Federal Government Girls College, New Bussa and Government Secondary School, Dogongari. The training project was a collaborative effort of two Institutions in Nigeria; University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State and National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR) which is the National Centre of Excellence (NCoS-Aquaculture). According to the project team leader, Prof. E.K. Ajani in his opening remark, CORAF/WECARD funded similar projects in three countries in West and Central African regions namely Nigeria, Cameroun and Sierra Leone. He said that the objective of the project is to improve the livelihood, productivity, income, food security and create jobs in the value chain through integrated agricultural research system for social, economic and development benefits. Also, Prof Ajani pointed out that the integrated fish culture project is anchored on three pillars of farmers’ participation in technology generation, technology release and training. He emphasised that the Ibadan experience on the project was a huge success as twenty fish farmers’ has already adopted the system, established innovative platform for key stakeholders in the business of poultry, banking, fish marketing and fish farming to enable them identify common challenges and proffer solutions.



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