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WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DE PRODUCTIVITE AGRICOLE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Key Results in Guinea



December 2018

Guinea



The Government of Guinea invested during the period 2011-2016, a total of \$US 32 Million to increase the productivity of rice, maize, small ruminants and fish value chains. The main activities supported were:

- i. Research and development infrastructural construction and rehabilitation and equipment procurement;
- ii. Training of young scientists and extension agents;
- iii. Technologies and innovation (T&I) generation;
- iv. T&I dissemination for broad adoption.

Major Research & Development;
Infrastructural construction & equipment
(2012- 2016)

\$US 2.07 Million



Major Renewal of research-
development personnel (2012 - 2016)

\$US 0.06 Million

18 Young Scientists Trained

Technologies dissemination
between 2012 - 2016

\$US 2.186 Million

235 177 farmers adopted
on **279 450** ha



Major Research & Development
activities between 2012 - 2016

6

Technologies and Innovations
Released

\$US 3.53 Million

Success Stories



E-vouchers to facilitate Agri-inputs Access in Guinea

The government of Guinea has announced that it will begin piloting the use of electronic vouchers to deliver critical agri-inputs to farmers in remote corners of the country. This is thanks in part to the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP).

Access to seeds, fertilizers, and other agri-inputs is a major challenge in most West African countries. With this electronic system, fragile rural communities may experience a revival of the local markets and the timely access to inputs.

According to the communication service of WAAPP Guinea, this new system will considerably improve the seed distribution, allow for better tracking, and reduce losses observed in previous distribution exercises.

“This is a real revolution in the distribution of inputs in Guinea, and it will help to overcome the shortcomings observed in recent years in the distribution of seeds,” says an official of the National Chamber of Agriculture of Guinea.

The prefectures of Kankan, Mandiana, Siguiri, and Kouroussa (Kankan Administrative Region) will be involved in the pilot phase.

About 200 persons are now being trained on the enrollment techniques of the system.

“The establishment of this mechanism will significantly reduce losses during the supply of seeds. This is a first because the risks associated with transport logistics failures, the lack of information from producers and delays in deliveries cause enormous damage to farmers. The system will ensure that the quantities delivered have reached the beneficiaries,” says Dr. Boubacar Diallo, Coordinator of WAAPP Guinea.

Guinea received an additional loan from the World Bank under the WAAPP to carry out activities designed to strengthen research and development in Guinea. The implementation of the e-voucher system falls within this framework.





Young Guinean Takes a Successful Bet in Agriculture

With most youths continuing to view agriculture unfavorably, it is uncommon to see young people venturing into the farming sector.

But in Guinea, the case is different for Ousmane Diallo. He lived abroad, but one day, he decided to return home and settled in agriculture.

«At first, it was not easy. Returning to the fields after living abroad was difficult. But today, I can achieve my goals as a farmer,» he says.

About 80 percent of Guineans are engaged in the agriculture sector. Though Ousmane has been in agriculture for a while, he always longed to be involved in a business activity further up in the agriculture value chain.

Ousmane developed eight hectares of land, going from rice production to banana and cashew. Proceeds from these activities have now enabled him to open an ice cream shop.

The West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) equipped him with the required knowledge, varieties, and technologies.

«The WAAPP approach convinced me.»

Ousmane employs six people permanently and about 15 seasonal workers. About ten other people work in his new ice cream shop.

Despite the progress made, Ousmane still dreams of more startups in the agriculture value chain.

The original article was published on the website of WAAPP Guinea.



WAAPP Offers 25 New Scholarships to Young Guineans

Twenty-five young Guineans have been awarded two-years Master degree scholarships to improve their knowledge and skill in the field of agriculture. The students shall study in one of West Africa's oldest colleges, the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. The scholarships are funded by the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) in Guinea.

Most of the beneficiaries are from the departments of Fishing and Maritime Economy, Agriculture and Livestock in Guinea.

"Some specialties are not taught in our universities such as fish farming, agricultural advisories services, extension and innovative techniques in the dissemination of technologies," said Dr. Boubacar Diallo, Coordinator-designate of WAAPP Guinea.

Through the training program, the Guinean officials hope the young researchers will be better equipped to replace a mostly aging group of researchers in the country.

Young Guinean engineers will benefit from training in several disciplines that have a direct and concrete impact on agricultural productivity and rural development in their country. These include:

- Innovative approaches to extension
- Advice to the family farm
- Gender
- Sustainable development
- Fish farming
- Reproductive technologies and biotechnologies

About WAAPP

The West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) involves 13 countries. The 10-years program was designed to make agriculture more productive, sustainable and profitable for smallholder farmers in West Africa. Started in 2007, WAAPP also aims to improve the conditions of life of consumers through the provision of agricultural products at competitive prices, build a critical mass of researchers for sound, efficient and collaborative research programs and finally to ensure that technologies generated nationally are available regionally. The WAAPP was established at the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a response to the renewed commitment by African countries to implement the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). Participating countries fund the USD 500 million program through a loan system obtained from the World Bank. At the regional level, the program is coordinated by CORAF. More than two hundred technologies were released and adopted by almost 4,5 million producers and processors on about 4.8 million hectares. These technologies are available on www.mita.coraf.org. WAAPP financed master degree and Ph.D. studies for 1021 youths. This represents 72% of men and 28% women. These young researchers are expected to replace most the agriculture researchers going on retirement. The nine national centers of specializations of countries participating in the program benefitted from the renovation of their infrastructure and new research laboratories were constructed. Two of the centers have been upgraded in regional centers of specialization. This includes the Dry Cereals Center based in Senegal and The Roots and Tuber center based in Ghana. By increasing the primary crops yields between 30% for dry cereals and 150% for rice, fruit, and tubers, the program has had a considerable impact on food security and caloric intake. Caloric consumption rose from 2,777 kcals to 2,964 kcals and the "hunger period" reduced by 28 to 55% according to the commodity. WAAPP has also increased by 34% the economic situation of farmers as well as transformed communities.

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