



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
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PRESS RELEASE

Lomé, Togo, 01st August 2023

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Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF)

ECOWAS strengthens the technical capacities of actors from the Regional Project for Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)

From August 01st to 12th, 2023, the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food is organizing in Ghana, in collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, a series of six (06) thematic workshops on CSA to build the capacity of the actors from the regional project for promoting CSA in West Africa.

The main objective of these workshops is to improve the knowledge and strengthen the technical capacities of national and field actors of the CSA project in West Africa for the formulation and implementation of climate-smart projects and integrated and participatory approaches.

Specifically, two (02) major thematic sessions will be held **at national level in Koforidua**: (1) formulation and implementation of climate-smart projects, and (2) integrated and participatory approaches. The main beneficiaries are local community/municipality executives and agents, national technicians (agriculture, water, livestock, environment, forestry), representatives of CSOs and NGOs, and representatives of farmers' organizations. Similarly, **the sub-national level in Bolgatanga and Tamale will cover these same thematic sessions, with a particular focus on village-based approaches and exchanges of experience.** The workshops will also be supported by the organization of field visits and exchanges on climate change adaptation practices in agriculture.

To this end, a training program has been drawn up by the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT to benefit one hundred and ten (110) national managers and technical staff from various ministries (agriculture, water, livestock, environment, forestry, etc.), local authorities and communities (representatives of CSOs and NGOs, representatives of farmers' organizations (FOs) living in the project intervention zone in Ghana.

Dr Robert ZOUGMORE, principal scientist on CSA and Cluster Lead of the West Africa AICCRA program (Accelerating impacts of CGIAR climate research for Africa) at the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, recalls that "*Climate-smart agriculture today offers immense opportunities for dealing with climate change. It does, however, require a critical assessment of current practices that hold promise for the future as well as institutional and financial factors that promote CSA adoption, all of which are targeted by the RAAF/CSA regional project.*" The regional coordinator of the CSA project, Mr. Jacques André NDIONE, indicates "*that it is important to strengthen the capacities of the actors on fundamental and practical concepts such as climate-smart agriculture, with regard not only to issues of co-benefits in terms of adaptation and mitigation, but above all, the work in co-construction with the human capital from the ministries and the communities through the formulation of CSA projects that are specific to the contexts of the different intervention countries*".

This will imply the promotion, stimulation and reproduction, on a larger scale, of already existing and potentially CSA traditional and local knowledge on the one hand, and the facilitation of the dissemination of new technologies on the other.



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West Africa is one of the regions of the world most vulnerable to the effects of climate variability and change. Extreme weather and climate phenomena such as droughts, devastating floods, torrential rains and heat waves have become recurrent, endangering agricultural productivity, ecosystems, food security and the lives of thousands of households.

Therefore, in alignment with its Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP) adopted in 2005 and supplemented by its strategic program on vulnerability reduction and adaptation to climate change, ECOWAS launched 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.

Among other initiatives developed to address the climate challenge, ECOWAS is implementing, in partnership with CILSS and Alliance Bioversity International & CIAT through AICCRA program, the Regional Project for the Promotion of Climate-Smart Agriculture in West Africa (CSA). 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 for poor communities.

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