

Objectives of the project

CAADP-XP4/CCARDESA: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4/ West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development. African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project.

The main objective of the program is “increased contribution of research and innovation to the transformation of agriculture, leading to economic growth and inclusive sustainable development of countries in West and central Africa (WCA)”. The specific objective is to improve capacities of CORAF to strengthen and support agricultural knowledge and innovation partners at all levels in WCA to transform agriculture and food systems and to influence policy formulation through effective linkages to and use of climate relevant science, knowledge, and innovation.

Background

The West and Central Africa (WCA) sub-region cover 236 million ha of cultivated land with a population of 414 million (40% of Africa’s population) with a 65% depending on agriculture for their livelihoods. WCA countries are characterized by widespread food and nutritional insecurity, high rates of poverty (40%) and youth unemployment estimated to be over 60%. Agricultural productivity is low due to intertwined biophysical and socioeconomic challenges that are



being exacerbated by climate change. African leaders adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2003 in Maputo, signaling their recognition of the central role of agriculture in development. Although governments have initiated actions to improve livelihoods and achieve national, continental and global targets, inadequate coherence and fragmentation have made it difficult to realize impacts and attain the desired progress. CORAF’s 2018-2027 Strategic Plan is aligned to the African regional and continental policy frameworks aims at leveraging science to accelerate agricultural growth, improve national food and nutrition security, as well as rural development and improved livelihoods. CORAF is therefore collaborating with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and other sister sub regional organizations (SROs) to capitalize on the EU’s DeSIRA initiative aimed at deploying science and innovation to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and climate-relevant transformation of agriculture and related food systems in WCA.

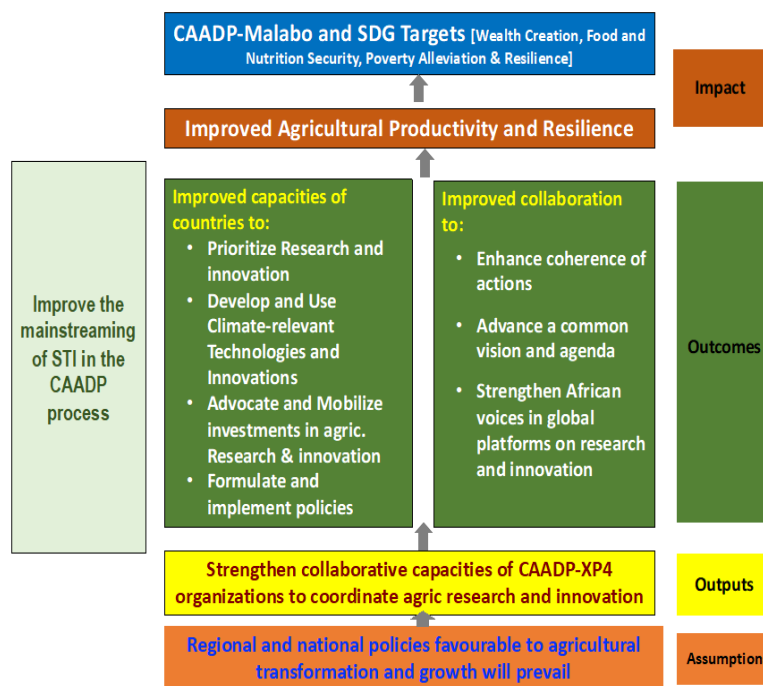
The theory of change to achieve the objectives

IF, CORAF’s capacities are improved and strengthened; **THEN**, it will be better positioned to support and coordinate the mainstreaming of science into agricultural research and development, that will catalyze the development and out scaling of technologies and innovations which will drive agricultural transformation in WCA, thereby enabling the countries to achieve the 6% in agricultural growth

prescribed by CAADP-Malabo and subsequently contribute to the relevant SDG targets [Wealth Creation, Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty Alleviation & Resilience].

The project will deliver 5 key outcomes: (i) internal capacities of CORAF strengthened; (ii) increased CORAF support to member countries to contribute to the delivery of CAADP results; (iii) enhanced adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) technologies by stakeholders to improve productivity; (iv) increased partnerships for promotion and exchange of knowledge and experiences on climate relevant agricultural R&I; and (v) a coordinated framework and infrastructure that makes available climate-relevant STI to support national agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (NAKIS) in learning and sharing opportunities strengthened.

The impact pathway of the whole project is the following:



Main activities

The project aims at delivering the following five outputs for which key activities have been identified:

Output 1: Capacity of CORAF in competencies needed for the successful implementation of the program strengthened - key activities are: (i) Training of staff to strengthen the internal capacities of CORAF and associated country-level partners; (ii) Procurement of some equipments to increase communication capacities as well as strengthening the enabling environment for effective implementation of the program.

Output 2: Enhanced collaboration among multi-stakeholders across sectors, geographies and agricultural value chains, with the following key activities: (i) hire consultancy to promote and facilitate the formation of and operationalization of multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation; (ii) conclude Memorudums of understanding to mobilize international expertise to provide technical assistance to CORAF in specific thematic areas; and supporting demand-driven climate relevant innovation through South-South, North-South and North-South-South brokerage.

Output 3: Policy, Advocacy and Market Linkages developed and established. The key activities are: (i) Conduct trainings to strengthen the capacities of regional and national organizations in climate relevant policy analysis, formulation and advocacy; (ii) Hold training sessions through webinars and online learning and physical meetings to develop capacities for application of foresight; (iii) and hold workshops to bridge the science-policy nexus through inclusive and evidence-supported policy dialogues and strategic communication sensitive to climate change.

Output 4: Knowledge Management enhanced: The key activities include: Co-developing with other SROs a coordinated framework and infrastructure that makes available climate relevant Science Technologies and Innovations to support national agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (NAKIS) in learning and sharing opportunities and coordinating the development of climate relevant knowledge products and tools for dissemination to the last mile.

Output 5: Effective Planning, coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) & Reporting. The main activities are: (i) conducting planning and coordination meetings; (ii) as well as data collection for Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL).

Organization

CORAF's covers West and Central Africa, comprising 23 countries within two Regional Economic blocks – the Economic Community of West Africa States and the Economic Community of Central Africa States. CORAF is committed to working with its diverse partners including the National Agricultural Research Institutes, Universities, the private sector, Farmer based organizations, and a host of Development Partners. At the technical level, the National/Regional Centers of Specialization or Excellence (NCoS/RCoE) are the face of the implementing structure of CORAF across the region. At the moment there are nine NCoS/RCoE based on key priority value chains. The NCoS/RCoE as the coordinating units of the commodity-based projects, ensure joint planning, resource mobilization, cost sharing, and implementation. The NCoS and associated diverse partners that make up the National Agricultural Research Systems will handle country level implementation.



Implementing organisation

West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)



Administered by IFAD

Project partners

The main partners of the project are the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) of the 23 countries in WCA including the Regional Centres of Specialization.

Other main stakeholders

In addition to the NARIs, the Universities, Non-Governmental Organizations operating in the agricultural sector, Key officials of the ministries of Agriculture, forestry, and the environment together with key officials of the Regional Economic Communities in the 23 countries are key stakeholders.

Region

The project will be conducted in 23 countries in West and central Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of



Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo) under the auspices of ECOWAS and ECCAS.

Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 5,770,000
Total budget	€ 5,770,000

Duration

15 November 2019-31 December 2023

