

Objectives of the project

CAADP-XP4/CORAF: 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 programme 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 the 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 covers 236 million hectares of cultivated land and has a population of 414 million (40% of Africa’s population). 65% of people in WCA depend 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, political instability and insecurity particularly in the Sahelian zone.



Farmers and livestock breeders collaborating to bring herds of cattle to cereal fields after a harvest. Photo credit: CORAF

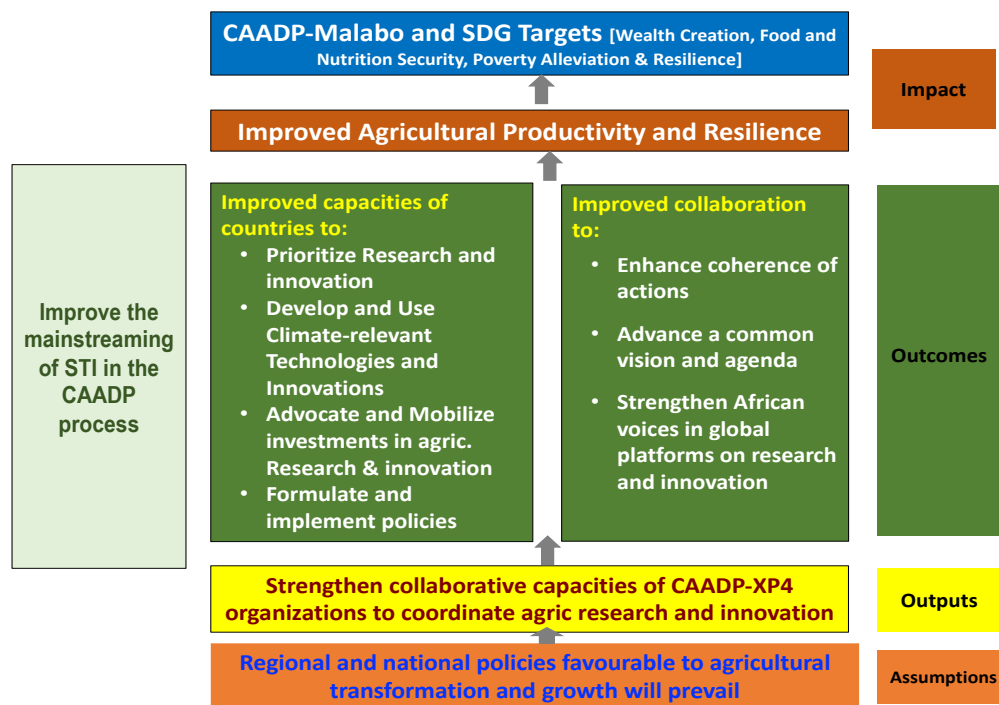
African leaders adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2003 in Maputo, signalling their recognition of the central role of agriculture in development. Although governments have initiated actions to improve livelihoods and achieve national, continental, and global targets, inadequate coherence and fragmentation have made it difficult to realize impact and attain the desired progress. CORAF’s 2018-2027 Strategic Plan is aligned to the African regional and continental policy frameworks and 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 catalyse 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 Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDG) targets [Wealth Creation, Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty Alleviation & Resilience].

The project is expected to 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 Science, Technologies and Innovations (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:

- ✓ **Output 1:** Capacity of CORAF in competencies needed for the successful implementation of the programme strengthened; Key activities are: (i) Training of staff to strengthen the internal capacities of CORAF and associated country-level partners; (ii) Procurement of some equipment to increase communication capacities as well as strengthening the enabling environment for effective implementation of the programme.
- ✓ **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 Memorandums 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 STI to support 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 MEL).

Results achieved to date (December 2022)

The cumulative progress reported for year 4 (2022) is estimated at 71 per cent as the overall achievement for the revised 2022 milestones of the five major outputs of the programme with contributions of individual outputs as follows: Output 1—institutional capacity strengthening (93 %); Output 2—partnerships on CSA (40%); Output 3—policies and markets (52%); Output 4—Knowledge management (78%); and Output 5—Monitoring, evaluation, learning and communication (63%).

Output 1 - Strengthened capacity of the five African organizations to perform their individual mandates and to better work together, reinforcing one another's strengths under subsidiarity principles and partnering along integrated objectives.

- ✓ The individual institutional and operational capacities of CORAF have been strengthened in the following ways: (i) recruitment and retention of critical human resources, (ii) upgrade and maintenance of operational systems notably Information and communication technologies (ICT), financial management, Knowledge Management (KM), programme management and MEL; and (iii) improved capacity to mobilise resources. The enhanced capacities have improved the effectiveness of CORAF in implementing the programme and in performing its mandates. It was on account of the improved capacities of CORAF that the World Bank assigned them coordination roles in regional food systems resilience programmes with a combined budget of USD 18 million, and other donors are more and more interested to partner with CORAF.
- ✓ Mechanisms for strengthening collaboration among the five organizations -a key objective of the CAADP-XP4 programme- have been consolidated. These include joint planning and implementation of programme activities, joint resource mobilisation, joint monitoring and reporting of results as well as programme governance. The collaboration has extended beyond CAADP XP4 programme actions to cover other programmes and functions. The five organizations are working out modalities of functioning as a cohesive consortium with a common value proposition, strategy, brand, operating guidelines, and governance arrangement.
- ✓ CORAF has strengthened its relations with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARIs) in WCA through 20 individual Letters of Agreements. In each of these 20 countries, the CAADP XP4 project has a focal point. They have created a network for knowledge and information sharing.

Output 2 - Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Innovation established and in operation.

- ✓ The Programme promotes partnerships as a mechanism for achieving its objectives. The partnership dimensions promoted include multi-stakeholder, thematic, South-South, with European institutions, farmers organisations and the private sector. CORAF established a CSA alliance in Central Africa comprising members of country CSA focal teams in the sub-region. It revitalized the existing CSA alliance in West Africa. These regional multistakeholder alliances are platforms for sharing information, networking and coordination of CSA actions across countries. In this respect, CORAF has carried out a mapping of CSA initiatives in 9 West African countries. Mapping of CSA initiatives will continue in 11 other WCA countries.

Output 3 - Policies in Support of Climate-Relevant Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Formulated; Investments Increased, Advocacy and Market Linkages Strengthened.

- ✓ CORAF has strengthened and developed the capacities of 2 sub-regional and 16 national organizations in policy advocacy. The regional capacities have been leveraged to build the capacities at national level. 4 regional level policy dialogues have been convened on means of harnessing climate-relevant science, markets, and trade to drive agricultural transformation in

African regions and countries. Among these policy dialogues, the first edition of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) leaders' forum was held in Yaoundé from 19 to 21 October 2022 to discuss the trends in sub-regional priority agricultural research themes and evaluate their contribution towards increasing agricultural productivity and building a resilient food system in WCA. A policy brief was produced and shared with all stakeholders.

- ✓ The workstream on foresight picked momentum with the operationalization of the Africa Foresight Academy (AFA) which is designed to be the main vehicle for building capacities of national actors in foresight. Through partnership with the initiative "Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa" (AICCRA) of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CORAF has trained twenty people from NARIs on agriculture foresight analysis.
- ✓ Under the framework of CAADP-XP4 programme, CORAF has also signed a letter of agreement with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to collect ASTI (Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators) in 17 countries in WCA. ASTI data covers aspects related to the institutional composition of research systems at a country level, human resources, research focus by topic and agricultural research and development expenditures and funding. This data is essential for monitoring, and therefore achieving, one of the Malabo declaration commitments (to allocate 1% of agricultural GDP to agricultural research at country level).

Output 4 - Knowledge Management and Communication for Decision Support, Sharing Innovation and Advocacy related to Climate-Relevant Agriculture Transformation.

- ✓ The collaboration among the five CAADP XP4 implementing organisations in KM and knowledge sharing has contributed significantly to strengthening the delivery of KM functions by the individual organisations and collectively. Regarding KM infrastructure, CORAF has revamped, updated and enhanced the functionalities of its KM platform which is also accessible via the [FARADataInformS](#). Through the ongoing partnership with FARA, the CORAF expert database is being made operational.

Output 5 - Effective planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL) and reporting.

- ✓ After the Mid-Term Review of CAADP XP4 programme, the M&E framework was reviewed and updated to revise the indicator targets, and to make the framework gender and youth responsive. The changes were integrated in the CAADP-XP4 MEL.
- ✓ CORAF and FARA have signed a letter of agreement to upgrade the CAADP XP4 MEL system in order to strengthen planning, tracking progress and reporting. Staff capacities of both parties are being enhanced in order to enable effective operationalisation of an interoperable CAADPXP4 MEL system.

Organization

CORAF covers West and Central Africa, comprising 23 countries within two Regional Economic blocks – the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS). 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 Centres 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 handle country level implementation.

Implementing organisation

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



Administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



Project partners

The main partners of the project are the NARIs of the 23 countries in WCA including the Regional Centres of Specialization. At the regional et continental level, in addition to the CAADPXP4 consortium partners, the Programme collaborate with (1) ABC (Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT) by conducting joint activities on capacity building and scaling CSA technologies and (2) IFPRI on Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) data collection and analysis.

Other main stakeholders

In addition to the NARIs, the Universities, the Regional Farmer Organisations in West and Central Africa, the 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.

Location

The project is 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 2024

Website

www.coraf.org

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