



DeSIRA+ West Africa

by ECOWAS



OBJECTIVES

General objective: Contribute to increasing the income and resilience of producers in the agro-forestry, pastoral and fisheries sector through the mobilisation of agroecological processes for the intensification of production.

More specifically the projects will:

- Increase the productivity and production of the agro-forestry, pastoral and fisheries (ASPH) sector, while preserving and restoring cultivated and natural ecosystems through the promotion of innovations for agroecological transitions through multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Promote the adoption of agroecological innovations by producers and SMEs through capitalisation of experiences, physical and digitalised training, dissemination of videos and other products, advocacy, support to public policies and institutional and regulatory frameworks favorable to agroecology.



LOGIC OF INTERVENTION

The project will provide or develop (i) Participatory development and testing of innovations; (ii) Technical and financial support for multi-stakeholder projects (FOs, NGOs, research institutions, SMEs); (iii) Training and dissemination of knowledge (MOOCs, videos, advice systems, digital platforms); (iv) Regional consultations and advocacy to integrate agroecology into public policies; and (v) Coordination, monitoring, evaluation and capitalisation at the regional level.

The outputs will be (i) Innovations tested, adapted and documented; (ii) Stakeholders (producers, SMEs, POs, agricultural advisors) trained and equipped; (iii) Educational resources and digital tools available; (iv) Advocacy notes and recommendations integrated into public policies; and (v) RAAF and ECOWAS capacities strengthened.

They will generate outcomes: (i) Increased adoption of agroecological practices by producers and SMEs; (ii) Reduced dependence on synthetic inputs, better soil and water management; (iii) Improved access to markets (short value chains, institutional markets); and (iv) Strengthened coherence and political support for agroecology.



MAIN INTERVENTIONS/COMPONENTS

Promotion and strengthening of innovation

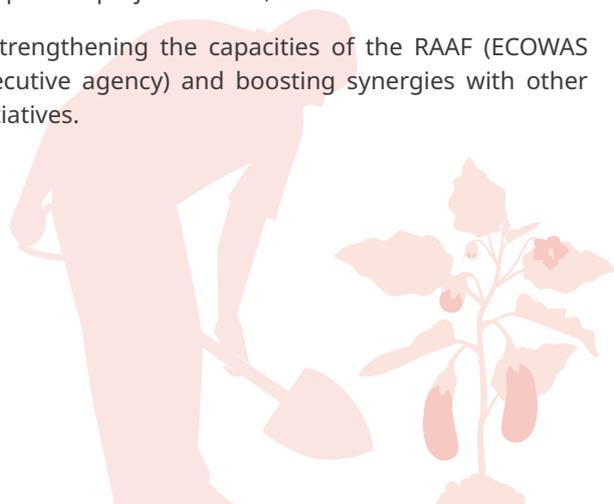
- Technical and financial support for field projects (via calls for proposals);
- Participatory experiments, co-design of innovations, dissemination to a critical mass of farmers and SMEs;
- Capitalisation and scaling up of good agroecological practices.

Training, exchanges and public policies

- Training and knowledge sharing through MOOCs, videos or advisory services;
- Regional consultations and advocacy to integrate agroecology into public policies (via the 3AO Alliance);
- Cross-functional capitalisation and digital knowledge-sharing platform.

Coordination and institutional support

- Monitoring and evaluation, financial management, support to project leaders;
- Strengthening the capacities of the RAAF (ECOWAS executive agency) and boosting synergies with other initiatives.



BASIC INFORMATION

Contracting entity: AFD (Agence française de développement)

Implementing partners: AFD, ECOWAS and RAAF, 3AO Alliance, RESCAR-AOC, a consortium of universities (Agroecology MOOC), Access Agriculture (videos in local languages), IRAM-AVSF-INADES Group (Technical assistance to RAAF, Lome), and entities selected through the call for proposals.

Countries: 12 ECOWAS member states with possible interventions of the Confederation of Sahel States countries.

Start: July 2024.

Duration: 5.5 years

Funding: The 20M€ project is co-funded by the European Union (10M€) and AFD (10M€).



STATE OF PLAY OF THE PROJECT

Promotion and strengthening of innovation

Call for projects launched on April 29, 2025, following a consultation with farmers' organisations around 7 themes:

- Access of family farms to organic agricultural inputs
- Agroecology and the arduousness of work / employability of young people
- Seed systems to promote agro-biodiversity
- Agroecology and nutrition
- Training, action research and support-advice systems for the dissemination of knowledge on agroecological practices
- Agroecology and access to markets
- Livestock farming and agroecology

Pre-selection phase almost complete: Of the 277 concept notes received, 99 full notes are expected to be requested.

Training, exchanges and public policies

Negotiation of the grant agreement with RESCAR-AOC (regional network of advisory services) and signature envisaged in October 2025 to promote agroecology through its integration into agricultural advisory services. This sub-project aims to strengthen the development of agroecology advice in West Africa and to strengthen advisory services promoting agroecology.

Negotiation of the grant agreement with the 3AO Alliance and signature planned for October 2025. This sub-project aims to (i) contribute to the strengthening of national stakeholders consultation and dialogue for the consideration of agroecology in policies and strategic planning at regional, national and local levels; and (ii) strengthen the scaling up of innovations and proven experiences of agroecology stakeholders by supporting capitalisation and mutual learning.

Coordination and institutional support

Recruitment of the Regional Coordination Unit still in progress.

Signing of a technical assistance contract between ECOWAS and the IRAM-AVSF-INADES Group in December 2024 which enabled the Project activities to begin upon signing of the AFD-ECOWAS Agreement.

Conducting several "soft" activities necessary for the launch of the project.