



ECOWAS COMMISSION
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ECOWAS

Regional Needs & Priority Areas

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Prioritized themes for regional programmes



Climate smart agriculture and food security



ECOWAS Early Warning for All (Hydromet) Initiative



Sustainable land management and restoration/nature-based solutions/biodiversity;



Rural Electrification/access to sustainable energy services;



Waste management/circular economy;



Blue economy, marine and lagoon ecosystems/coastal resilience.

Climate smart agriculture and food security

Outcome 1: Enhanced CSA strategies & implementation capacity

- Develop a regional CSA investment strategy
- Develop digital agriculture strategy
- Developing policy proposals and guidelines for national implementation

Outcome 2: Increased CSA adoption rate and scale

- Promote production and distribution of quality inputs.
- Establish CSA financing arrangement and provide initial financing.

Outcome 3: Increased access to CSA advisory

- Develop digital broadcast platforms.
- Develop a community of Practice system

Climate smart agriculture and food security:

Progress, key challenges & next steps

Progress:

- Regional **readiness support received** from the Green Climate Fund
- Project **CN under development** in collaboration with **EBID**

Next steps:

- Technical and financial partnerships develop and co-finance/invest the programme.

Project 1 title

WEST AFRICAN INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE (WAICSA)

Result areas	Sector	Total financing, USD	GCF financing, USD	Financial instrument	Partners
Forestry and land use Most vulnerable people and communities Health and well-being, and food and water security	Public/private	200,000,000	150,000,000	Grant/Loan	EBID/RAAF/GGGI/GIZ MFI
Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it	The West African Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture (WAICSA) is a financial mechanism embedded in the ECOWAS Regional Agriculture Development Fund (ECOWADF). This fund, managed by the ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development (EBID), is the main financial instrument of the ECOWAP. Agriculture remains the backbone of West Africa’s economy, contributing over 40% of regional GDP and employing the majority of the population, especially smallholders. However, it is highly vulnerable to climate change, erratic rainfall, and land degradation. Smallholder farmers, who produce nearly 80% of the region’s food, struggle with limited financing, poor resilience, and systemic risks. WAICSA as a Solution - WAICSA is a regional blended finance platform designed to unlock investment in climate-smart agriculture (CSA). Its aim is to: - Scale agribusinesses and CSA practices. - Build resilient rural value chains. - Leverage blended finance to attract private and institutional investors.				
Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged	WAICSA is positioned as a flagship regional initiative under the RFAF, operationalized by EBID, to catalyze climate-smart agriculture financing in West Africa. With its blended finance structure, robust financial model, impact-driven strategy, and strong alignment with global climate goals, WAICSA provides a transformative platform to: Mobilize capital, • Empower farmers, • De-risk agricultural finance, and • Build resilience against climate change.				

Project 2 title

Scaling up climate-smart solutions for resilient and productive agri-food systems in West Africa

Result areas

Forestry and land use
Most vulnerable people and communities
Health and well-being, and food and water security

Sector

Public

Total financing, USD

100,000,000

GCF financing, USD

70,000,000

Financial instrument

Grant

Partners

RAAF/CGIAR

Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it

The agricultural sector constitutes a core pillar of the West African economy, accounting for more than 30% of the region's GDP and a source of income to about 60% of the region's population. Studies confirm the projections of lower yields for most food crops from now until 2050, with estimates converging towards global reductions in average yields of 12%, 16%, 20% and 25% respectively for millet, sorghum, maize and rice. Moreover, from now until 2030, climate change could reduce the yields of groundnuts by between 11% and 25% and by 30% for cowpeas in certain regions of the Sudano-Sahelian zone

The project aims to enhance resilience of agriculture systems, food security and poverty reduction in the ECOWAS Region. The project will accelerate the implementation of the relevant policies and amplify the outcomes of previous and ongoing interventions by focusing on addressing the persistent sector challenges, including

- (a) Low adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies among smallholder farmers
- (b) Limited scalability and replicability of CSA Practices
- (c) Insufficient use of technology in enhancing climate data access and early warning systems
- (d) Unsustainable land management practises in the agricultural sector
- (e) Inadequate access to affordable finance and markets for farmers implementing CSA practices
- (f) Insufficient regional collaboration and policy harmonisation to address transboundary climate challenges

Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged

As expressed in the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy (RCS) and Action Plan 2022 -2030, agriculture and livestock are the only thirteen sectors that cut across all the member states' NDCs as a priority for adaptation action. The project aims to enable member states to achieve their NDC actions, contributing to the objectives of the Paris Agreement and SDG 13 Climate Action. Additionally, by promoting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, and restoration of degraded areas, the project will directly contribute to SDG 2 Zero Hunger by increasing the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, ensuring sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices, and eliminating malnutrition. Under SDG 15, Life on Land, the project will directly contribute to conserving and restoring terrestrial ecosystems, ending desertification and restoration of degraded land, and integrating ecosystem and biodiversity in governmental planning

Project 3 title

Enhancing the resilience of agropastoral farming systems in West Africa (ERAF-WA)

Result areas	Sector	Total financing, USD	GCF financing, USD	Financial instrument	Partners
Forestry and land use Most vulnerable people and communities Health and well-being, and food and water security	Public	80,000,000	50,000,000	Grant	EBID/RAAF/FAO/CGI AR
Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it	Livestock is one of the pillars of the rural economy in the Sahelian zone of West Africa. This sub-sector is particularly exposed to the climate variability that characterises this region, with an expected increase in temperatures and an increase in the variability of precipitation and the intensity of extreme weather events. This phenomenon affects the natural capital with major impacts on agropastoral activities that still operate according to traditional models, compromising sustainable livelihoods and food security and exacerbating vulnerabilities. The main objective of this project is to increase the resilience of agropastoral production systems in the West African Sahel, by removing barriers related to weak institutional capacity to coordinate the management of transhumance corridors, low technical and technological capacity, poor access to climate services and financial and non-financial services for the adoption and implementation of climate-smart agropastoral practices. The ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food will be the implementing entity of the project and will work in close collaboration with state ministries in charge of animal resources and other partners from farmers’ organisations and the private sector.				
Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged	▪ Aligned with regional climate strategy priorities ▪ R3.A. The resilience of pastoralism to climate change is strengthened and conflicts mitigated ▪ Scaling up past/ongoing initiatives and projects (PREDIP, CASSECS, PRAPS, PRIDEC, PAGR-SANAD, PEPISAO)				

ECOWAS Early Warning (Hydromet) Initiative – Expected Outcomes and Activities

Outcome 1: Effective governance and resource mobilisation for national and regional agencies operation and maintenance.

- Develop institutional structures for better governance and operation of hydromet agencies.
- Develop policies, guidelines and service agreements to facilitate timely data sharing among national and regional entities, as well as resource mobilisation.

Outcome 2: Effective and sustainable climate information and early warning for all vulnerable communities.

- Install key equipment required to generate adequate data to provide essential (level one maturity) services.
- Build technical expertise to develop and effectively disseminated tailored CI/EWS advisories.
- Rehabilitate and upgrade non-optimally functioning installations to enhance their observation and modelling capacity.
- Equipping regional observation and data centers with high-performance equipment and capacity to provide shared services to member states.
- Assess and fill equipment and knowledge gaps identified by on-going projects.

ECOWAS Early Warning (Hydromet) Initiative – Expected Outcomes and Activities

- **Outcome 3: Climate information and early warning for commercial applications**
 - Develop fee-based service models for large private sector corporations, and financial and insurance to accurately climate risk.
 - Establish public private partnerships to develop applications and intergrade early advisory in existing service systems.

Early Warning (Hydromet) Initiative

Progress, key challenges & next steps

Progress:

- **Analytical study** of the current state of Early Warning and technical and infrastructure gaps done (with support of the World Bank, WMO)
- Partner Concept Note under development with BOAD

Next steps:

- Identification of technical and funding partners for full proposal development and programme co-financing.

Thank you!

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