



ECOWAS COMMISSION
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Climate Week 2025

Capacity building for accessing finance -Needs based Climate Finance

Project Portfolio under ECOWAS Readiness Program

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia , July 21-25, 2025



Outline

I. West Africa: Climate change effects and impacts

II. Main regional sectoral policies

III. Project portfolio under development

IV. Next step



01

West Africa: Climate change effects and impacts

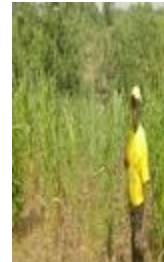
I West Africa: Climate change effects and impacts



Increase of +2.3°C (+0.6°C/10 years) by 2060



Erratic with increasing extreme weather events (flooding, increased rainfall variability, coastal and soil erosion, pockets of drought)



Impact on agriculture, livestock and fisheries

- **Decline in agricultural yields (2050)**
Millet: 12%, Sorghum: 16%, Maize: 20% and Rice: 25%.
- **Reduction of arable land by 40 to 80%.**
- **Decreases in production** and changes in route and calendar (pastoralism)

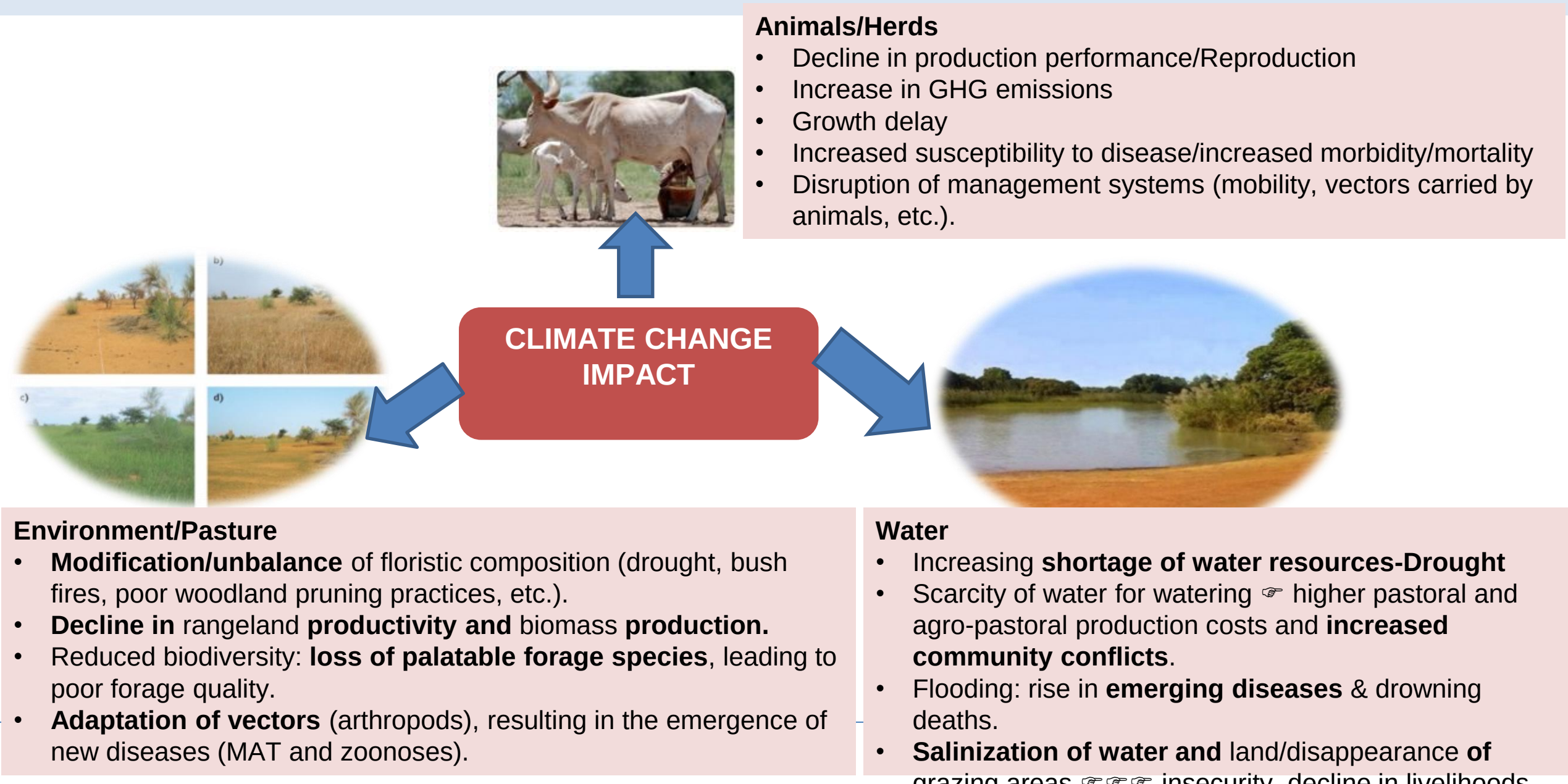


Exacerbation of conflicts linked to the scarcity and use of natural resources



GDP reduction of 3.7% and 11.7% by 2050 under low and high warming scenarios respectively (WASCAL, 2021).

West Africa: Climate change impacts





02

Main regional sectoral policies



II- MAIN REGIONAL SECTORAL POLICIES

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Regional Climate Strategy and its action plan (2022-2030)
ECOWAS Environmental Policy (ECOWEP, 2008),

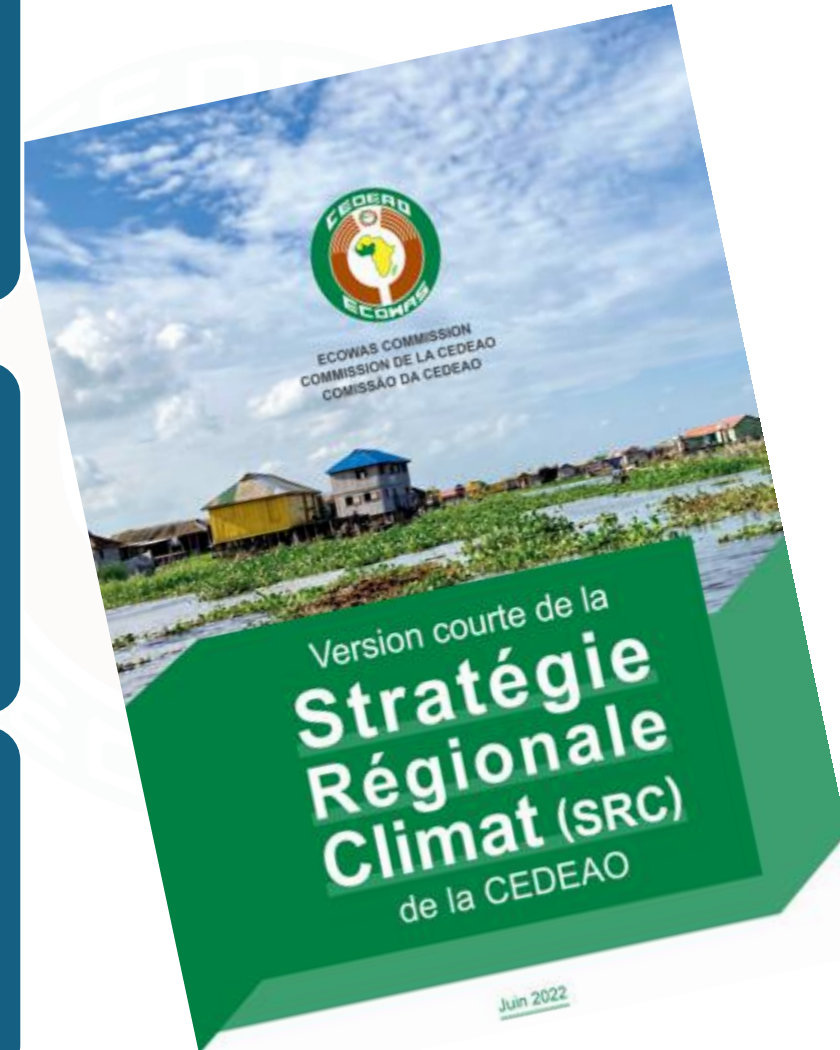


Water: West Africa's Water Resources Policy

Agriculture: ECOWAP, 2005, updated in 2016 (Strategic Framework 2025 orientation), in order to integrate emerging issues, in particular CSA,



Energy: Programs implemented by the ECOWAS
Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy
Efficiency (ECREEE) <http://www.ecreee.org>





03

Project portfolio under development



Project portfolio under development

Three Projects

**WEST AFRICAN INITIATIVE FOR
CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
(WAICSA)**

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

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





Département Affaires Economiques et Agriculture
Direction de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation



Project 1 : WEST AFRICAN INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE (WAICSA)

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.				



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WAICSA-INNOVATIVE –IMPACTS



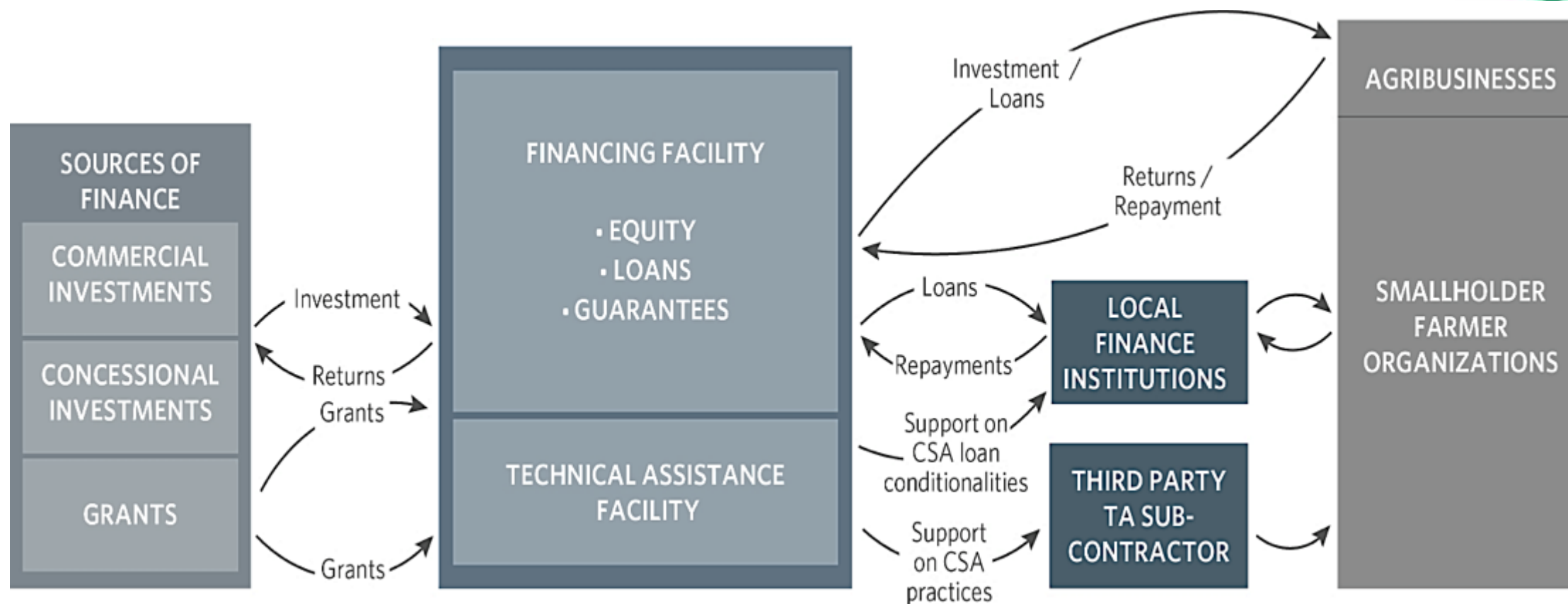
WAICSA builds climate resilience among smallholder farmers, by providing financial and technical support to incentivize adoption of climate-smart agriculture, and increasing local financial institutions' capacity for climate-smart lending

- 
- An initiative led by the Commission of ECOWAS, WAICSA will target six of the 15 ECOWAS member states in its pilot phase, with the objective of being replicated in all states after the concept is proven.



At scale, WAICSA has the potential to improve food security of 90,000 smallholder farming households in the region and convert over 185,000 hectares to climate-smart agriculture. The fund can also contribute to mitigating up to 2 million tons of CO₂ emissions a year, which is equivalent to over 4 billion miles of driving.

WAICSA.DESIGN



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

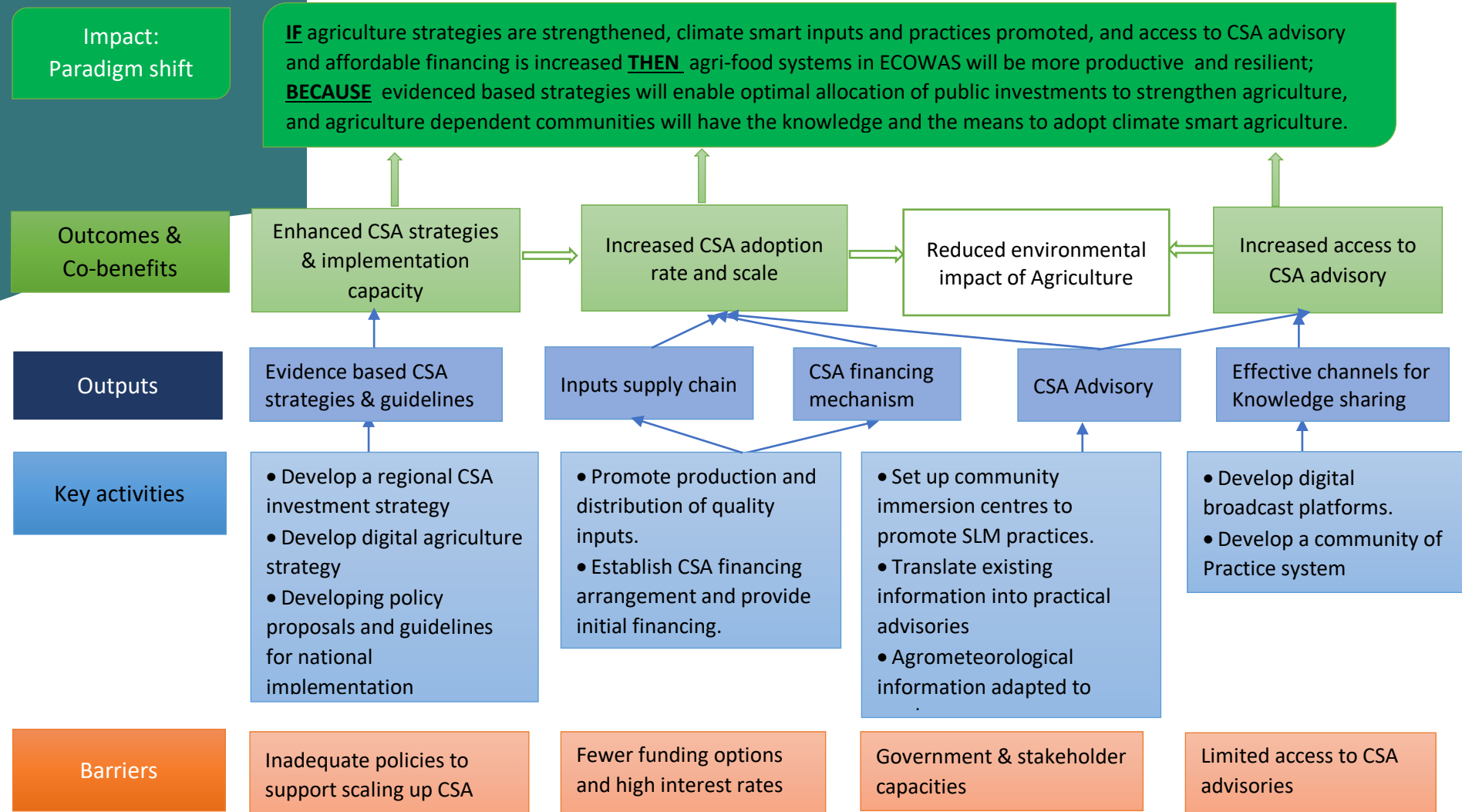
- (a) Low adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies among smallholder farmers
- (b) Limited scalability and replicability of CSA Practices
- (c) Insufficient use of technology in enhancing climate data access and early warning systems
- (d) Unsustainable land management practises 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 title:	<i>Scaling up climate-smart solutions for resilient and productive agri-food systems in West Africa</i>
Activities	1. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)/ agroecology and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) mainstreamed into sub-national plans 2. Knowledge exchanged among beneficiary countries 3. Good CSA and SLM practices scaled up in beneficiary countries 4. Rehabilitation of water resource infrastructure, degraded landscapes and ecosystems mobilization 5. Promoting high yield climate resilient seeds varieties and animal breeds. 6. . promoting the good agriculture practices 7. Strengthening agriculture and Non-Timber Forest Product value chains 8. Early Warning System
Expected outcomes	• Evidence based CSA policy frameworks and strengthened institutional capacity for implementation. • Increased adoption and scale of climate smart agriculture practices • Increased access to CSA advisory services including climate and agro-weather information. • Reduced economic losses to farmers as a result of phenomena like drought , flood and other extreme weather events. • Improved planning of the agricultural sector preventing that impacts from weather events affect the final price structure, creating climate-resilient value chains. • Increased productivity due to the use of cleaner technologies, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to reduction targets, promoting sustainable and green development. • Novel crop diversity for the development of improved crops and increasing resilience of food security.
Paradigm shift potential	This project will invest in the implementation of adaptation measures of the agriculture sector in prioritized crops and locations in ECOWAS which will further expand throughout the States , as the different sectors start replicating the project experience. In addition, the project will generate the necessary knowledge to build new agriculture technological capacities, empowering producers to launching similar projects on their own.

Theory of Change



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/CGIAR
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)				

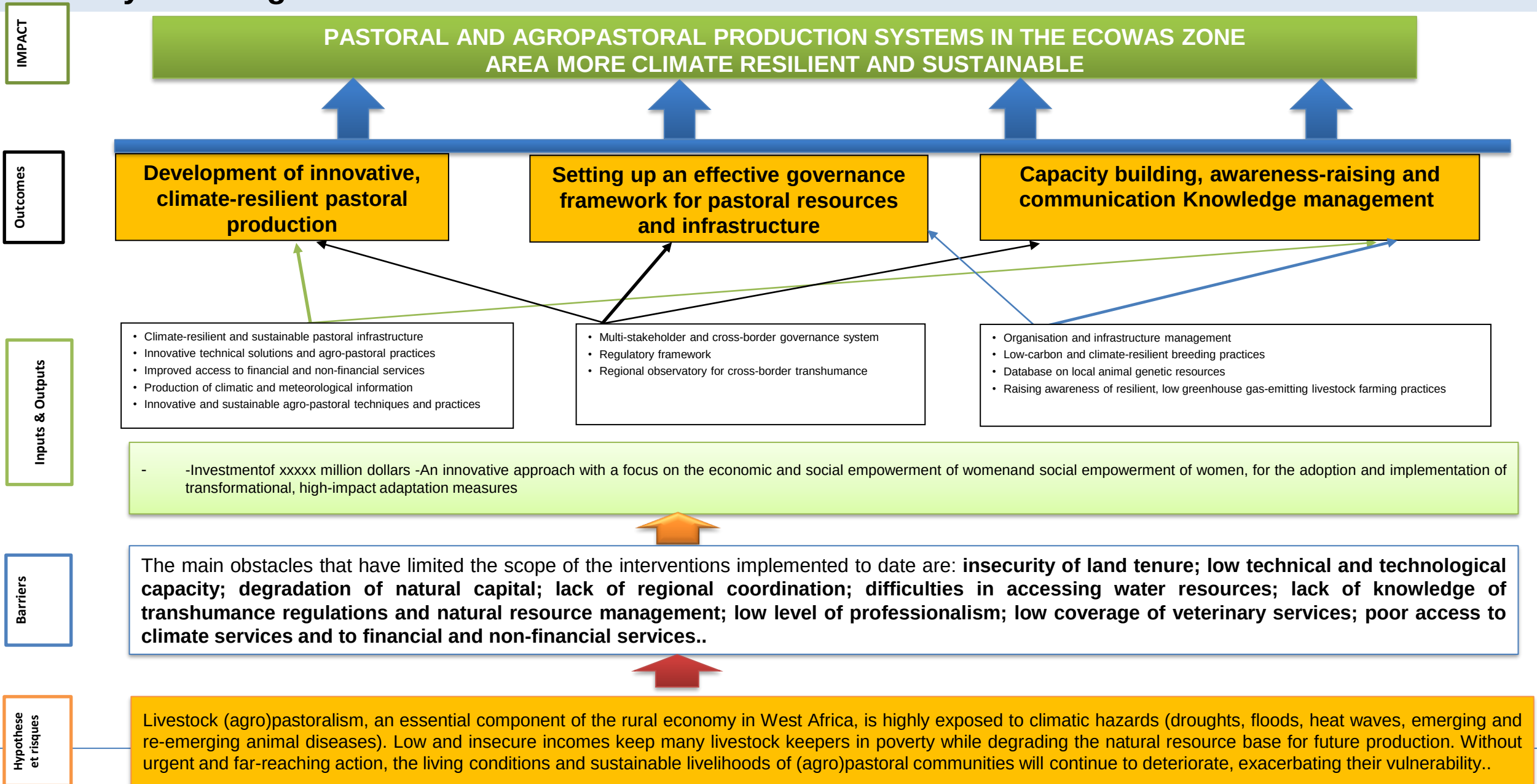


Project 3 title:	Enhancing the resilience of agropastoral farming systems in West Africa (ERAF-WA)
Activities	<i>1. Establishment or rehabilitation of climate-resilient and sustainable pastoral infrastructure</i> <i>2. Innovative and sustainable technical solutions and agropastoral practices are identified and implemented.</i> <i>3. Improved access to financial services to support resilient pastoral production.</i> <i>4. Access to animal health and management services is enhanced to support climate-friendly livestock production</i> <i>5. Access to weather and climate services is improved</i> <i>6. A cross-border, multi-stakeholder management system is being put in place to support climate-friendly pastoralism</i> <i>7. The regulatory framework takes into account the new issues generated by the impacts of climate change.</i> <i>8. Regional dynamics of pastoral livestock are better observed and contribute to dynamic and adaptive management</i> <i>9. Livestock players (including women) are sensitised and strengthened on resilient and low greenhouse gas emission livestock practices</i> <i>10. Creation of an online database on local animal genetic resources</i>
Expected outcomes	• Development of innovative and climate-resilient pastoral production is supported. • Establishment of an effective framework for cross-border management of climate-resilient pastoral resources and infrastructure • Capacity-building and knowledge management.
Paradigm shift potential	The strategy of this programme is largely based on the regional scaling up of innovative solutions that have been tested and proven in Senegal and in several countries of the region. The establishment of entrepreneurial fodder production units based on the experience of Burkina Faso will allow for permanent availability of fodder and opens up good prospects for the emergence of green jobs. The Agropastoral Field School (AFS) model has enormous potential for massive replication at the pastoralist level, specifically in pastoralist units. The scaling up of the AFS model has the double advantage of improving milk production but also of creating jobs for young people, thanks to the emergence of new professions in the local milk value chain (facilitator, milk collector, artisanal milk processing, etc.)



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

- Theory of change





04

Next step



Next step

➤ Completed

- ❑ Concept notes drafted

➤ In progress

- ❑ Internal validation within the DADR/RAAF/DERN /EBID /,

September 2025

➤ Upcoming

- ❑ Presentation, review and validation workshop of the Concept notes by the NDAs and request for their endorsement letter

October 2025

- ❑ Collection of NOLs from State NDAs,

fourth quarter 2025

- ❑ Finalization and pre-feasibility study,

fourth quarter 2025

- ❑ **Engagement with Partners & climate funds /accredited entities for the other two concept notes,**

fourth quarter 2025

- ❑ Submission of the WAICSA concept note for approval to the GCF

November 2025

- ❑ GCF – EBID interaction – ARAA support

November 2025 – May 2026

- ❑ Concept note approval by the GCF

June 2026





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Feed **WEST AFRICA**
Nourrir **L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**
Alimentar a **ÁFRICA OCIDENTAL**

Agriculture and Rural Development Department:

Annex River Plaza-496, Abogo Largema Street,
Central Business District PMB Box 401-Abuja FCT -
NIGERIA



Agric_ruraldev@ecowas.int



@ecowas.agriculture



@ecowas_agric

Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food:

83 Pasture Street, Super Taco-Lomé-TOGO

www.araa.org



araa@araa.org



@araaraaf



@ARAA_CEDEAO

**Thank you for
your kind
attention!**

