

Annual Report 2022

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABEE	West Africa Breeding Networks and Extension Empowerment
AAIS	African Association of Insect Scientists
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services Association
AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AICCRA	Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa Réseau africain de protection des végétaux
APPSN	African Plant Protection Network
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ASBP	African Seed and Biotechnology Program
ASTI/IFPRI	Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators/International Food Policy Research Institute
AUC	African Union Commission
UA-BIRA	African Union Inter-Africa Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
PDDAA	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CCAFS	Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CILSS	Comité permanent Inter États de lutte contre la Sècheresse dans le Sahel
CRI	Crops Research Institute
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSOGI	Climate Smart Organic Green Initiative
DeSIRA	Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture
CEEAC	Economic Community of Central African States.
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ED	Executive Director CORAF
EnGRAIS	Enhancing Growth through Regional Agri-Inputs Systems
UE	European Union

FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FSRP/PRSA	Food System Resilience Program
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIRAV	Gambian Inclusive Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development
IAR4DI	Integrated Agricultural Research for Development
IBP	Integrated Breeding Platform
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IER	Institut d'Économie Rurale (Institute of Rural Economy) Mali.
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural development
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Centre
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
INRAB	Institut National Agronomique du Benin
INRAN	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger
IP	Innovation Platform
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
ISRA	Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research)
iREACH	Innovation Research, Extension and Advisory Coordination Hub
KUL	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Knowledge Management, and Learning
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute, The Gambia
NAFASO	NAFASO - National Federation of Agricultural Producers' Organizations (Burkina Faso)
SNRA	National Agricultural Research System
NASTA	National Agricultural Seed Trade Association
NCoS	National Center of Specialization
NCRI	National Cereal Research Institute, Nigeria
NEYAT	Nurturing Enterprising Youth for Agricultural Transformation Technologies
NSTA	National Seed Trade Association
PAIRED	Partnerships for Agricultural Research, Education and Development
PID	Priority Intervention Domain
PRAPS	Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel
ProPAD	Strengthening Climate Resilience and Sustainable Agricultural Productivity in Chad



RCoE	RCoE Regional Centers of Excellence
ROPPA	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
SARI	Savannah Agricultural Research Institute
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SEDAP	Support to Agricultural Research for Development of Strategic Crops
SEEDAN	Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (West African Economic and Monetary Union)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNIS	Union Nationale Inter-professionnelle Semencière, Senegal
WA	West Africa
WAAPP	West African Agricultural Productivity Program
WARSSC	West Africa Regional Seed and Seedling Committee
WCA	West and Central Africa
WAVE	West Africa Virus Epidemiology





Foreword

To our esteemed Regional and International Donors, Development Partners, and Collaborators, it is with great honour and gratitude that we present the CORAF 2022 Annual Report, an essential document designed to update you and the entire CORAF Community on the numerous activities and achievements of our organization during the year. We express profound appreciation to you all, for your unwavering support, which has been instrumental in driving the success of CORAF. Your continued commitment and collaboration have contributed significantly to our accomplishments, and we encourage you to take pride in the positive impact we have collectively made.

This Annual Report presents the details of CORAF's diverse activities and essential outputs across the domains of

Governance, Project Implementation, Human Resources, Administration and Finance. Our core focus remains steadfast: to foster sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, promoting wealth creation, and uplifting the livelihoods of the populations in West and Central Africa. At CORAF, we firmly stand by our commitment to research for agricultural innovation, with a primary objective of delivering capacity development and strengthening initiatives. Our goal is to foster efficient, inclusive, and sustainable agricultural growth that positively affects the well-being of the entire population, especially vulnerable groups in the region.

However, the journey has not been without challenges. The compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and rapid population

growth had adverse impacts on agricultural production, productivity, as well as the health and economic well-being of West and Central African communities. Yet, in the face of these trials, our region demonstrated resilience, adopting decisive measures to manage the crises and address the ensuing challenges.

During the year, CORAF redoubled efforts in strengthening the capacity of the Executive Secretariat and expertly coordinated the implementation of 10 crucial projects, aimed at combatting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and food insecurity in West and Central Africa.

We take great pride in sharing that, we expanded our project portfolio to encompass several pivotal initiatives during the year. These projects included (i) the TARSPRO project to scale up agricultural technologies and innovations to increase the resilience of production systems and family farms in West and Central Africa. This project will apply a range of agricultural technologies and innovations and knowledge on family farms to address the challenges of climate change, population growth and increased urbanization; (ii) the AICCRA project, Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate

Research for Africa, which is aimed at strengthening the capacity of targeted CCAFS, the CGIAR Research Programs on climate change, agriculture and food security partners and stakeholders and to enhance access to climate change information services and validated climate-smart agricultural technologies in IDA eligible African countries. (iii) The GIRAV project which aims to promote the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and Agri entrepreneurs in targeted areas of The Gambia and (iv) the FSRP project, Food Systems Resilience Program, a flagship regional investment program.

The CORAF General Assembly also decided that it was essential to strengthen the capacities of the National Centers of Specialization (NCoS) and the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoE) for the conduct of cutting-edge scientific research and technology relevant to national and regional properties, through various initiatives. Our partnerships have expanded, as we have diligently engaged with many more organizations, enriching our work, and widening our horizons.

The outputs highlighted in this CORAF Annual Report 2022 bear testimony to our capability to function as a competent

and reliable regional institution, coordinating and enhancing agricultural research and development, and delivering innovative strategies to combat the debilitating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and poor agricultural production. We hope you will enjoy reading this Annual Report. Looking ahead, CORAF remains eager to foster fruitful collaborations with all our esteemed donors and partners, as together, we endeavour to uplift the populations of West and Central Africa out of chronic food insecurity and poverty.

With unwavering determination, we continue our pursuit of a more prosperous and sustainable future for our region.





CORAF Annual Report 2022

Highlights

Project Implementation

- Contribution of nine (9) projects to the achievement of the four results of the 2018-2027 Strategic Plan and the performance indicators of the 2018-2022 Operational Plan.
- Approval of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) by the World Bank.
- Publication of the 3rd edition of the regional catalogue of plant species and varieties (2018-2021), including 176 new varieties published by 13 of the 17 member countries of ECOWAS and CILSS, taken together.
- Transition from 11 to 20 priority crops for the development of the regional catalogue.
- Adoption and dissemination of the «Regional Executive Regulations for the Phytosanitary Control and Certification of Seeds for West Africa and the Sahel» enabling a harmonized approach and standards for controlling the introduction and spread of pests and seed-borne diseases in the region.
- Publication of CORAF's Capacity Statement to develop public awareness and engagement materials.
- Establishment of four (4) new Innovation Platforms (IPs) in Adidwan, Nkwayire, Nsoatre and Derma in the Ashanti region of Ghana, bringing the total number of innovation platforms to 46, including 2 in Benin, 24 in Ghana, 13 in Mali, 2 in Niger and 5 in Nigeria.
- Installation of 201 demonstration plots by the national agricultural research centers of Benin (11), Ghana (24), Mali (67), Niger (23), Nigeria (33) and Senegal (43) to facilitate dissemination, communication, and sensitization on 215 improved varieties of cereals including maize (62), rice (57), millet (62) and sorghum (34).
- Installation of 417 additional demonstration/dissemination plots of high-performance varieties by the private sector with the support of CORAF, including 400 dissemination plots in Mali and 17 in Senegal.

- ⊕ Training of 217 men and 17 women in seed production in Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria, bringing the total number of people trained to 1,460 people, including 618 women.
- ⊕ Updating of the platform for recommendations of fertilizers, seed varieties and good agricultural practices based on West African agroecologies (FeSeRWAM) by improving its UI/UX design according to user needs.
- ⊕ Validation and dissemination of 510 information kits of agricultural input packages for priority crops in 11 countries, namely Benin (13), Burkina Faso (50), Côte d'Ivoire (71), Ghana (72), Guinea (2), Liberia (5), Mali (50), Niger (35), Nigeria (67), Senegal (98) and Togo (47).
- ⊕ Opening of the first Agricultural Technology Park in West Africa, in Bambey, Senegal.
- ⊕ 57 agricultural professionals, including 8 women, affiliated with research institutions and national meteorological services in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal, trained on the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) during a regional training.
- ⊕ CORAF held the second edition of the Agricultural Innovations and Technologies Marketplace (MITA).
- ⊕ Updating of the MITA online platform to enable wide dissemination of proven agricultural technologies to drive agricultural transformation and development.
- ⊕ Active communication on our media platforms and increased visibility of CORAF thematic and strategic events with nearly 200 articles published and approximately 40 million people reached.
- ⊕ Establishment of the community of practices of West African NARS communication experts.
- ⊕ 86 seed actors, including 20% women, involved in series of national consultation meetings to assess the effectiveness of seed production systems and identify limits and bottlenecks in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal.
- ⊕ Modernization of 12 varietal improvement programs in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal to better take into account breeding priorities based on demand from end users (producers, processors and consumers);
- ⊕ 1,781 producers, 40% of whom are women, reached through 811 participatory tests conducted in rural areas.
- ⊕ 54 actors (extension workers and farmers) trained to identify cassava virus symptoms and best agricultural practices to produce healthy material, certified

seeds and demonstration plots established in five (5) countries (Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, and Sierra Leone);

- 11 extension agents, 32 seed multipliers and 11 producer groups trained in the use of the Plantvillage Nuru smartphone application for diagnosis of cassava diseases in plantations in Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone.
- 178 trials conducted and 238 varieties shared within the framework of the regional exchange network for varietal material piloted by the dP IAVAO.
- One (1) knowledge platform created for knowledge and data management with the various partners / varietal selection programs in Senegal, Niger, and Burkina in order to capitalize on the various research results.

Partnerships

- CORAF concretized fifteen (15) partnerships including renewed partnerships with the OneCGIAR, for strengthening collaboration to support agricultural technology generation and uptake in Africa.
- Partnership agreements were concluded with the ChildFund and the Global Green Growth Institute.

Governance

- The 31st Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors was organized through a hybrid format from January 18-20 in N'djamena, Chad and chaired by Dr. Angela Maria P. Barreto da Veiga Moreno, Chairperson of the CORAF Board of Directors.
- The 13th Ordinary Session of the CORAF General Assembly was successfully organized in N'djamena, Chad from January 25 – 27.
- The 32nd Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors, was organized from 5-7 July 2022, in Nouakchott, Mauritania.
- An open day on agricultural research in Mauritania was organized in the form of a technology fair dubbed: «Research, innovation and technology transfer for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in West and Central Africa – Case of Mauritania”.

- + CORAF satisfied the World Bank preconditions for effectiveness of grants within the framework of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) implementation, consequently the US \$ 18 million FSRP was launched on 13-15 June 2022 in Lomé, Togo.

Human Capital Resources

- + A Human Resources Manager was recruited to support CORAF for qualitative staff management to improve organizational efficiency.
- + CORAF implemented Institutional reforms including a revised organogram, a new staff pay scale, a new staff contract template, and tools to facilitate teamwork.
- + A Staff retreat was organized in March 2022 to re-mobilize the teams around institutional objectives and to identify the challenges facing staff performance.

Administration and Finance

- + An Access system to the CORAF premises was upgraded to facilitate identification of CORAF personnel.
- + A team building workshop was organized in March 2022, to galvanize CORAF staff efforts to embrace an improved culture of results-based management.
- + During the year, a total of US\$ 77,393,353 was mobilized to implement the CORAF Operational Plan (2018-2022)
- + An overrun of US\$16,696,767 (27%) was credited to the CORAF Operational Plan 2023-2027.
- + The total amount of US\$54,008,146 funding agreements implemented was secured for year 2023.
- + CORAF mobilized and secured funds amounting to US\$3,186,000 through partnerships with the World Bank and CIAT.

Communications and Marketing

- + Two hundred and fifty (250) articles were published in English and French on the CORAF website to highlight the programme and institutional activities of CORAF.

- CORAF Community increased to approximately 242,000 followers on Facebook, 13,000 on Twitter, 37,000 on YouTube, 6,000 on LinkedIn and 2,000 on Instagram.
- CORAF achieved 315,000 subscribers on social networks, and 258,000,000 people were reached on social networks.
- CORAF publications on social networks reached out to over 230,000,000 people.
- Cumulative production on all platforms during the year attracted approximately 71,000 visitors, which generated 180,000 page views.
- The CORAF Monthly Newsletter was distributed online to over 8146 subscribers, and recorded a 15 per cent increase in subscribers in Central Africa.



Advances in Delivering the CORAF Four Results

The CORAF Strategic Plan (2018-2027) designated three (3) Priority Intervention Domains (PIDs) (1) Agriculture, food, and nutrition security; (2) Policy, Institutions, Markets, and Trade; and (3) Gender,

Youth, and Social Equity in Agricultural Research and Development and places the following CORAF four (4) Results within the context of each domain.

Result 1

Increased use of appropriate technologies and innovations;



Result 2

Increased adoption of strategic decision-making options for policy institutions and markets;

Result 3

Strengthened institutional and human capacities in agricultural research for development;



Result 4

Demand for agricultural knowledge from target clients is facilitated and met.



During the year CORAF coordinated the implementation of 10 projects, resulting in significant outputs in each of the CORAF four result-focus

areas in mainly two (PID1 and PID2) of the three priority intervention domains set in the Strategic Plan as shown in Figure 2.

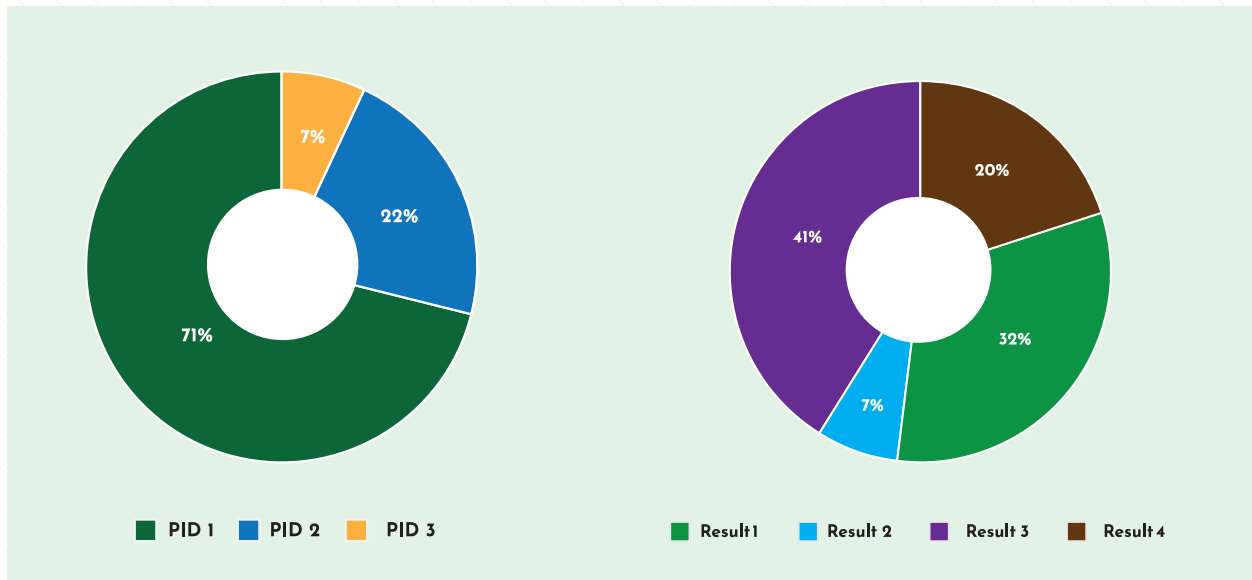


Figure 1. Proportion of activities implemented by PID and result.

An overview of the Priority Intervention Domains and the results achieved during the year under each PID is presented as follows.

Priority Intervention Domain (PID) 1: Agriculture, food, and nutrition security

This PID addresses issues of sustainable agriculture including production of crops, livestock, and fisheries, with strong links to nutrition, food security and human health. It also emphasizes efficient management of the natural resources

base and biodiversity conservation.

The major challenges addressed by PID 1 include the impact of climate change on high-value non-staple and staple crops, livestock, and fisheries; the management of emergency in foreign invasive pests affecting these agricultural sectors; water resource management focusing on farm and watershed productivity through techniques like micro-irrigation and water harvesting; and the promotion of soil fertility and conservation enhancement.

Result 1: Increased use of appropriate technologies and innovations

- ✓ A total of 86 seed actors, including 20% women, were reached through national consultation.
- ✓ 9,475 tons of breeder seeds (peanut, sorghum, millet, cowpea, and fonio) were produced from the varieties included in the demonstrations and new incoming varieties.
- ✓ Five profiles of selection products were defined through consultation mechanisms, including grits for millet, tô for white sorghum, dolo (or millet beer) for red sorghum in Burkina, millet flour for Senegal, and millet ball (foura) for Niger.
- ✓ 260 smartphones were distributed in four countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sierra Leone, and Cameroon) to develop a visual database of virus disease symptoms.
- ✓ 54 extension agents, seed multipliers, and selected producer groups were trained in smartphone use and participatory monitoring applications.
- ✓ Dedicated clouds in each project country were used to collect participatory surveillance data.
- ✓ National Response Plans (NRPs) were operationalized, and emergency operating centres (EOCs) were established for all 10 participating countries.
- ✓ A training workshop on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was conducted for implementing teams, with 15 participants.
- ✓ Two (2) Agricultural Technology Parks (ATPs) were set up, and the first set of Open Days was organized.
- ✓ A workshop to enhance the capacity of young people in agro-industry development for gender, nutrition, and climate-smart technologies was co-organized, training 29 individuals.
- ✓ Mentoring and coaching sessions for implementing Innovation Platforms (IP) were held, with 7 IPs in Benin, 6 IPs in Burkina Faso, 5 IPs in Niger, and 5 IPs in Chad.
- ✓ A research symposium at Cotonou was facilitated to share the CSA concepts, know-how, and technologies with over 107 participants from 16 West and Central African countries.
- ✓ Research institutions and universities were sensitized to CSA concepts, know-how, and technologies.
- ✓ CSA concepts and technologies were shared at the Market of Technologies (MITA) in Dakar, Senegal, with 188 participants.
- ✓ Many participating countries expressed interest in deploying Climate-Smart Villages and climate information services approaches.
- ✓ The GIRAV project introduced technologies from the West African region to Gambia, including 70 Mt of improved maize and rice varieties.

Result 2: Increased adoption of strategic decision-making options

for policy institutions and markets

✔ National programs were supported in operationalizing

national response plans (NRPs) and establishing appropriate emergency operating centres (EOCs). NRPs were developed for



Figure 2. Seed Delivery to The Gambia under GIRAV Project

all ten participating countries and were endorsed by the respective Ministries of Agriculture.

✔ CORAF engaged with various stakeholders, including ECOWAS, ECCAS, CGIAR/CCAFS, UNFCCC Focal Points, CAADP Focal Points, CAADP-XP4 Focal Points, farmer organizations, and civil society organizations, in virtual dialogue meetings.

✔ Two (2) policy dialogues were organized, one in West Africa and the other in Central Africa.

Result 3: Strengthened institutional and human capacities in agricultural research for development

- ✔ • Experimental stations under the ABEE project were modernized to enhance data collection and seed management in Senegal, Niger, and Burkina Faso.
- ✔ Investment plans were developed for various infrastructure enhancements, including boreholes with solar pumping

systems, cold storage, irrigation basins, threshing and sorting areas, and more.

- ✔ Participatory varietal evaluation and selection involved 1781 producers, with 40% being women, across multiple demonstration tests in collaboration with partner farmer organizations.
- ✔ The CAADP-XP4 project facilitated the implementation of the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative across 20 National Agricultural Research Institutes.
- ✔ Country focal points were appointed received training on ASTI methodology, and an ASTI project coordinator managed the data collection process.
- ✔ Data collection was ongoing and recorded in a dedicated platform.
- ✔ An implementation support mission of the PROPAD project revealed a disbursement of project budget and resulted in a one-year no-cost extension.
- ✔ Decision makers and technical staff were sensitized to Climate-Smart Agriculture concepts, tools, and approaches.
- ✔ ITRAD scientists participated in research end-user dialog and the Market of Technologies in Dakar, Senegal.
- ✔ Amid-term review of the AICCRA

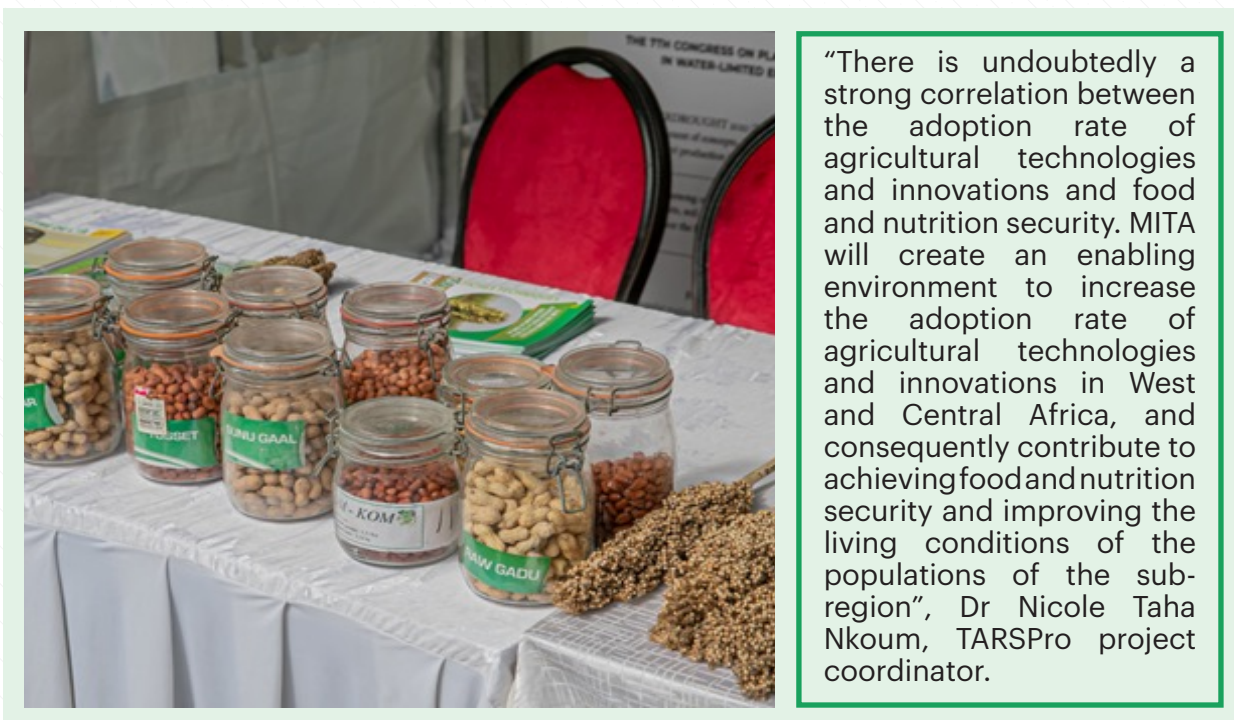
project showed a disbursement of project budget and led to a one-year no-cost extension.

- ✔ A Community of Practice was established for experts from WCA research institutions to conduct foresight analysis.
- ✔ Decision makers and technical staff in Chad were sensitized to Climate-Smart Agriculture concepts.
- ✔ The iREACH Advisory Committee assessed the progress of Agricultural Technology Parks (ATPs) in five pilot countries. The committee participated in the SILL annual meeting on Measurable Outputs and Impact pathways in Cambodia.
- ✔ The FSRP project evaluated the status of Centres of Specialization and developed concept notes and a manual for the Abdoulaye Toure Agricultural Innovation Award.

Result 4: Demand for agricultural knowledge from target clients is facilitated and met

- ✔ 178 trials were conducted and 238 varieties distributed within the regional variety exchange network, including sorghum, millet, cowpea, fonio, and groundnuts.
- ✔ 68 test datasets were uploaded to the regional Breeding Management System (BMS) server.

- ✓ 2022 Agricultural Innovation and Technology Marketplace (MITA) organised in Dakar, Senegal, with 188 participants from 19 countries.
- ✓ Technology and innovation suppliers were allowed to showcase their offerings, leading to bilateral discussions with potential buyers.
- ✓ 200 technologies and innovations were presented at the fair, with intentions to purchase exceeding a hundred.
- ✓ 6 Agricultural Technology Parks in 5 pilot countries were established, demonstrating 42 technologies



“There is undoubtedly a strong correlation between the adoption rate of agricultural technologies and innovations and food and nutrition security. MITA will create an enabling environment to increase the adoption rate of agricultural technologies and innovations in West and Central Africa, and consequently contribute to achieving food and nutrition security and improving the living conditions of the populations of the sub-region”, Dr Nicole Taha Nkoum, TARSPRO project coordinator.

Figure 3. Seeds showcased during the MITA

during the 2022 cropping season.

- ✓ Open days were successfully held in four countries, with over 400 attendees, including farmers, seed companies, artisans, extension staff, scientists, media services, and decision makers.
- ✓ Research and End-Users of research products dialogue sessions involving 38 participants from 8 Centres of Specialization, national agricultural research institutes, 8 CG centres, 4 farmer organizations, and 4 seed companies were conducted.
- ✓ Challenges were identified and addressed in priority commodity value chains, (maize, cowpea, tomato, vegetable, rice, poultry) leading to the development of research proposals.
- ✓ Consortia of research institutions (Centres of Specialization, CG centres and other international research institutions), farmer organizations, private sector (seed companies) were built to

develop research proposals to address (i) low yield of milk and meat of local ruminant breeds; (ii) poultry diseases; (iii) low yield

and post-harvest conservation of cowpea, (iv) low yield and pre-harvest losses of sesame; (v) striga resistance maize varieties, etc.



Figure 4. Participation du CNS Rice au MITA 2022

✓ 84 technologies from 25 research institutions were showcased to 188 participants, with countries selecting technologies for

dissemination in project intervention zones under the Agricultural Innovation and Technology Marketplace (MITA).



Figure 4. Journée portes ouvertes au Mali

Plateforme MITA

RCO

MITA CORAF
LEADER DE L'INNOVATION
AGRICOLE EN AFRIQUE DE
L'OUEST ET DU CENTRE

mita.coraf.org



Le MITA est une plateforme numérique qui fait la promotion à grande échelle des technologies agricoles en vue d'améliorer la productivité des acteurs du secteur agricole

MITA is a digital platform that promotes agricultural technologies on a large scale in order to improve the productivity of actors in the agricultural sector



USAID

MITA.CORAF.ORG



MITA

MARCHE DES INNOVATIONS AGRICOLES



FEED:IFUTURE CORAF IFDC

fesarwam.org



Fertilizer and Seed Recommendations for West Africa Map (FeSeRWAM)

Carte de Recommandations de Semences et des Engrais pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (FeSeRWAM)



USAID

FESERWAM.ORG

Priority Intervention Domain (PID) 2: Policy, Institutions, Markets, and Trade

This PID focuses on promoting marketing and market access for agricultural products through policy support and technology development. It is a significant component of various regional policies and priorities. The major challenges addressed by PID2 are:

- a.** Regional value addition, processing, and commercialization of high-value crops and livestock.
- b.** Enhancing seed and other agricultural input systems.
- c.** Encouraging smallholder enterprise development to boost investments in farm enterprises.
- d.** Promoting domestic agro-industries to drive industrialization through private research and innovation delivery.

Key events and results from PID 2 include:

Result 1: Increased use of appropriate technologies and innovations

- ✓ Exchanges between stakeholders resulted in planning a regional coordination framework for pest control and management.

Result 2: Increased adoption of strategic decision-making options for policy institutions and markets

- ✓ West Africa Regional Seed and Seedling Committee (WARSSC) Meeting: Recommendations

were formulated to support the implementation of harmonized regional seed regulations.

Result 3: Strengthened institutional and human capacities in agricultural research for development

- ✓ The Agricultural Research Leader's Forum held in Yaoundé addressed challenges affecting agricultural productivity in West and Central Africa. A policy brief was drawn up following the Forum, putting forward recommendations to the governments of West and Central African states and perspectives for addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the agricultural sector.

The CAADP-XP4 consortium collaborated with the African Union Commission (AUC) to integrate the CAADP-XP4 program into the broader CAADP agenda, resulting in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on various aspects related to agricultural development and investment plans.

Priority Intervention Domain (PID) 3: Gender, Youth, and Social Equity in Agricultural Research and Development

The PID 3 focuses on promoting equal access to agricultural research and development resources, opportunities, and benefits for men and women, especially vulnerable groups like women and youth in West and Central Africa. Key events in this report include:

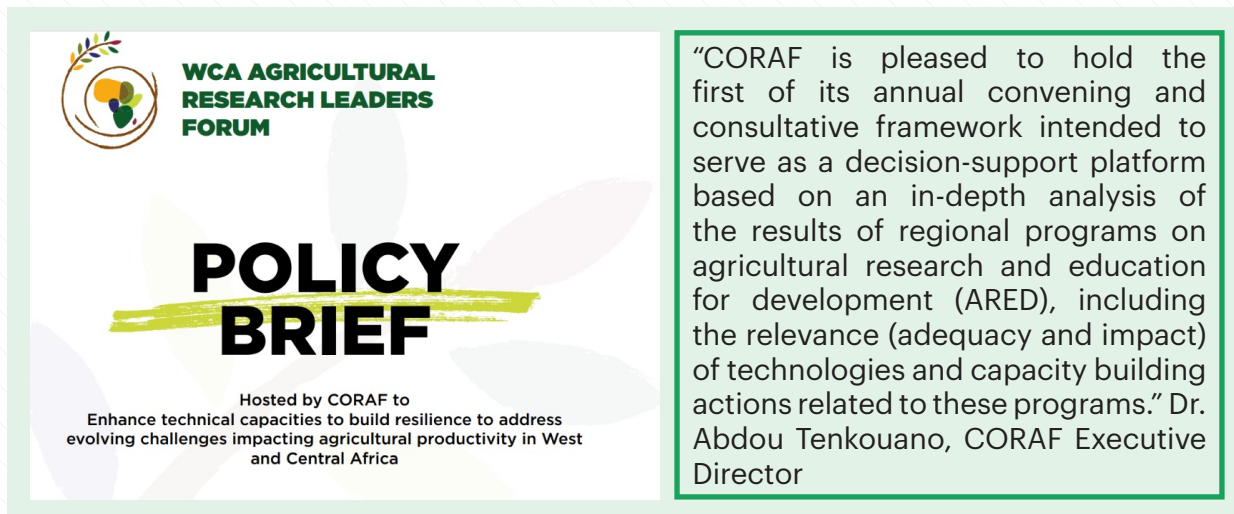


Figure 6. Policy brief produced in marge of the CORAF Forum

Priority Gender Issues

- ✓ Strengthening leadership and capacity of female and young researchers in agricultural research systems.
- ✓ Capacity building for women and youth farmer organizations in agriculture value chains.
- ✓ Supporting a Regional Gender Alliance to coordinate gender mainstreaming initiatives in the region.

Priority Youth Employment Issues

- ✓ Capacity development and training for youth in agribusiness management and soft skills.
- ✓ Facilitating access to finance and markets through youth involvement in Innovation Platforms.

- ✓ Creating enabling conditions for youth entrepreneurship in small and medium agricultural enterprises.

Mainstreaming Gender and Youth Dimensions

- ✓ The Gender, Youth, and Social Equity Program provided technical support for integrating gender and youth considerations in various projects at the CORAF secretariat and partner initiatives.
- ✓ All concept notes and projects were screened for gender considerations, ensuring their mainstreaming in development and implementation.

Strengthened Institutional and Human Capacities in Agricultural Research:

- ✓ 9 thesis students (including 2

females) and 36 master's students (including 7 females) working on varietal improvement were recruited and supervised.

✓ 13 students (12 PhD and 1 Master's, including 5 women) recruited and trained in socioeconomics, virology, scientific writing, and leadership.

✓ A total of 50 contracts for 20 PhD scholarships (including 9 females) and 30 Master's scholarships (including 7 females) were established under the TARSPRO project.



Figure 7. Scientific writing training for BIORISK PhD students in Abidjan

Significant efforts were made to address gender and youth-related issues in agricultural research and development, with the goal of creating more inclusive.



Focus on PAIRED Project

Implementation of the USAID supported project PAIRED which commenced in year 2019 continued during this reporting year. As approved by the CORAF General Assembly and by USAID, PAIRED was implemented in the context of three components as follows:

- (i).** CORAF capacity-building for effective coordination of agricultural research and development,
- (ii).** Innovative scaling framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations (T&Is) established in West Africa (WA;) and
- (iii).** Use of quality agri-inputs in WA increased.

The primary objective of PAIRED is to provide technical and financial support to CORAF to effectively lead and coordinate agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa. Besides strengthening CORAF's institutional capacity, PAIRED aims to help CORAF improve stakeholder engagement around the expected positive impact on food and nutrition security for millions of vulnerable rural families in West and Central Africa.

Change Pathway of the PAIRED Project

Because West African countries continue to experience major challenges in the production, distribution, and widespread use of improved inputs such as certified seed, fertilizer, CORAF continued to catalyze the development and adaptation of baskets of appropriate technologies and innovations (T&Is) including high-yielding crop varieties. However, the deployment of such T&Is has not massively occurred indicating that agricultural transformation has been elusive. Consequently, CORAF engaged relevant actors more effectively, including private-sector and AR&D foundations, and facilitated greater public and private investments in specific value chains.

A Theory of Change (ToC) was developed to guide the design of the change pathway resulting in the expected results of the PAIRED program as illustrated in figure 3. The logic in the change pathway was based on key assumptions that include:

- I. Willingness of CORAF’s membership countries to support the leadership role of CORAF.
- II. Commitments of stakeholders (CORAF’s constituencies’) in implementation.
- III. Willingness of up-takers to adopt the new T&Is.
- IV. Climatic conditions are favorable and natural disasters are limited.
- V. Competitive markets are accessible and benefit the poor and disadvantaged groups.

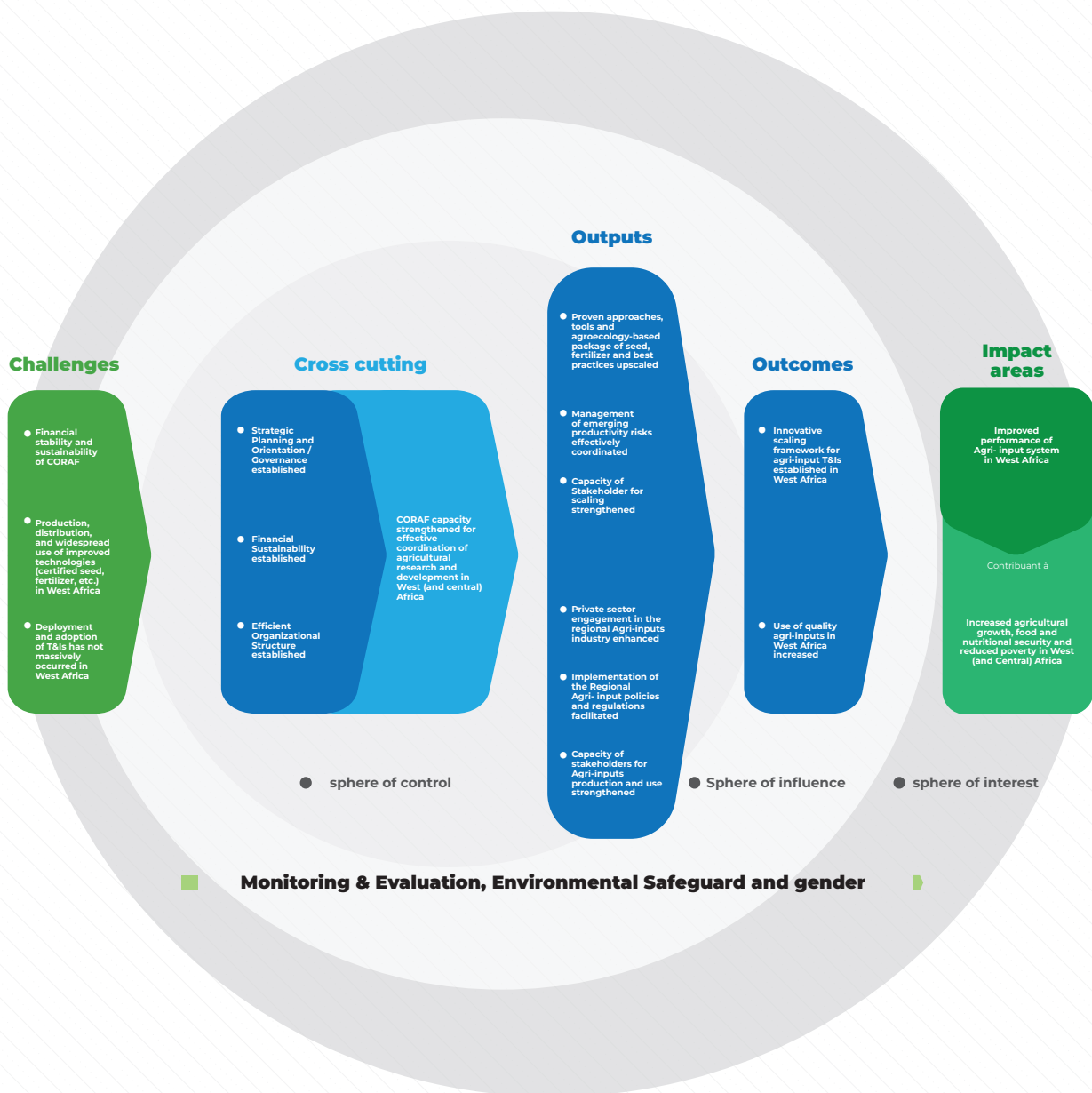


Figure 8. Change Pathway of the PAIRED Project

Innovative scaling framework for agri-input technologies and innovations in West Africa

In order to widely deploy the technologies and innovations developed by the CORAF community as contributions to agricultural

development and improved livelihoods in West and Central Africa, an innovative scaling strategy framework (Figure 9) was designed to foster large scale adoption and sustainable use of agricultural technologies and innovations. This strategy comprised:

- I. initial participatory screening and selection of appropriate T&Is to be taken to scale, involving researchers, farmers, agro-dealers, agro-processors, and consumers.
- II. establishment of a multi-actors platform that creates a whole range of socioeconomic systems, such as market systems, agricultural finances, around scalable T&Is by linking actors and fostering collaboration as well as business opportunities.
- III. technology diffusion induced in communities through communication and marketing systems, demonstration plots, and field days.

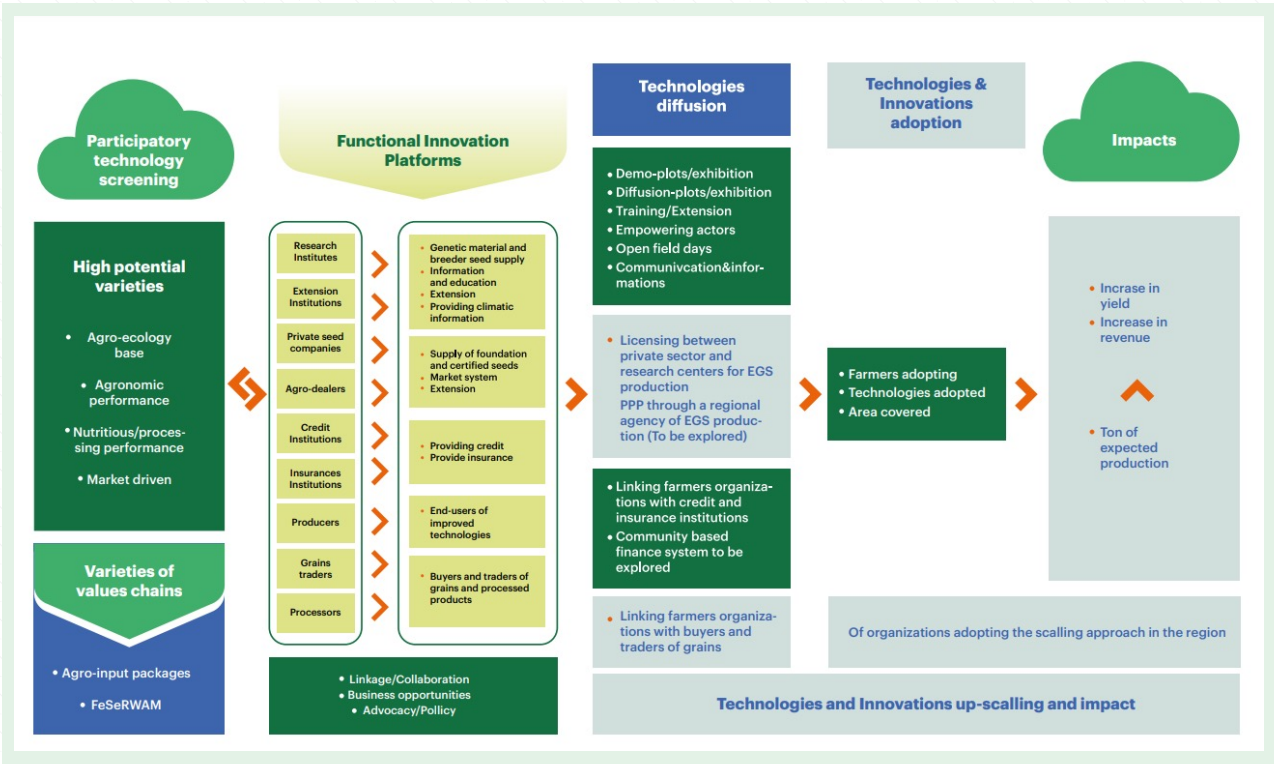


Figure 9. Integrated T&Is Scaling Strategy framework

Appropriate scaling interventions reached the point of adoption of improved seeds and fertilizer packages generated a critical mass of users, thus guaranteeing widespread adoption of the innovation and resulting in improved agricultural production and poverty alleviation.

The PAIRED project team facilitated establishment of innovation platforms to engage with local level actors of rice, maize, millet, and sorghum value chains to create enabling environment for technology upscaling and adoption.

- ✓ In Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Benin, innovation platforms continued to receive support from PAIRED country teams. In Ghana, Nigeria and Benin, IP facilitators were trained on farming as a business and production of quality seeds.
- ✓ In Ghana, out of the 24 IPs, 22 formulated their action plans, 19 IPs finalized their business plans, 15 IPs opened bank accounts and all of them benefited from Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA).
- ✓ In Ghana 16 distribution plots were established (4 maize and 12 for rice) and 8 farmers field days were organized on established demonstration plots for rice and 2 each for maize. These open field days showcased the potentials of good agricultural practices and the potential of agri-input packages developed for improved varieties of rice and maize.
- ✓ In Mali, Ghana, Nigeria and Benin, PAIRED teams organized capacity building sessions for 4 innovation platform members on agribusiness, seed production and postharvest management and transformation of maize.
- ✓ In Mali, under the MoU signed between CORAF and Faso Kaba (a seed company), 400 dissemination plots covering 6.8 Ha were established.
- ✓ Two (2) open-field days were organized in Benin by INRAB for Ifangni and Aplahoué IP members to show case improved maize varieties distributed in Benin.
- ✓ In Nigeria, the IP leaders of maize and rice value chains were trained at the National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI) and Institute of Agriculture Research (IAR) on farming as a business, as well as in quality seed production.
- ✓ In the Nigerian maize value-chain, IP members established 2 demonstration plots to showcase three improved maize varieties and 2 plots on rice value chains; 3 open field days were organized as well, 2 for maize value chain and 1 for rice value chain.
- ✓ In Senegal, CNRA Bambey organized two open days in October 2022 for dissemination of improved

varieties and agri-input packages for stakeholders in the millet, sorghum and rainfed rice sectors. In addition, 2 innovation platform on rice and maize were established at Kaffrine and Kattaba during the second semester of the year.

✓ Through a partnership established with a MoU between CORAF and UNIS, a seed producer association, 2 open-field days were organized in Senegal on the best performing plots between October 2021 and March 2022.



Figure 10. Technician showing the seedlings at the Bambey Technology Park



Figure 11. Peanut variety showcased at the Bambey technology park



- ✓ Niger held national innovation platform training workshops, which focused on facilitation, governance, business plan development and access to market and M&E of a multi-stakeholder's partnership. In Ghana, Nigeria, and Benin similar training workshops were organized on farming as a business and in quality seed production.
- ✓ The PAIRED project launched an updated version of the FeSeRWAM platform (Figure 6) in August 2022 and the database of FeSeRWAM was updated for Niger, Benin, Togo, and Burkina Faso.

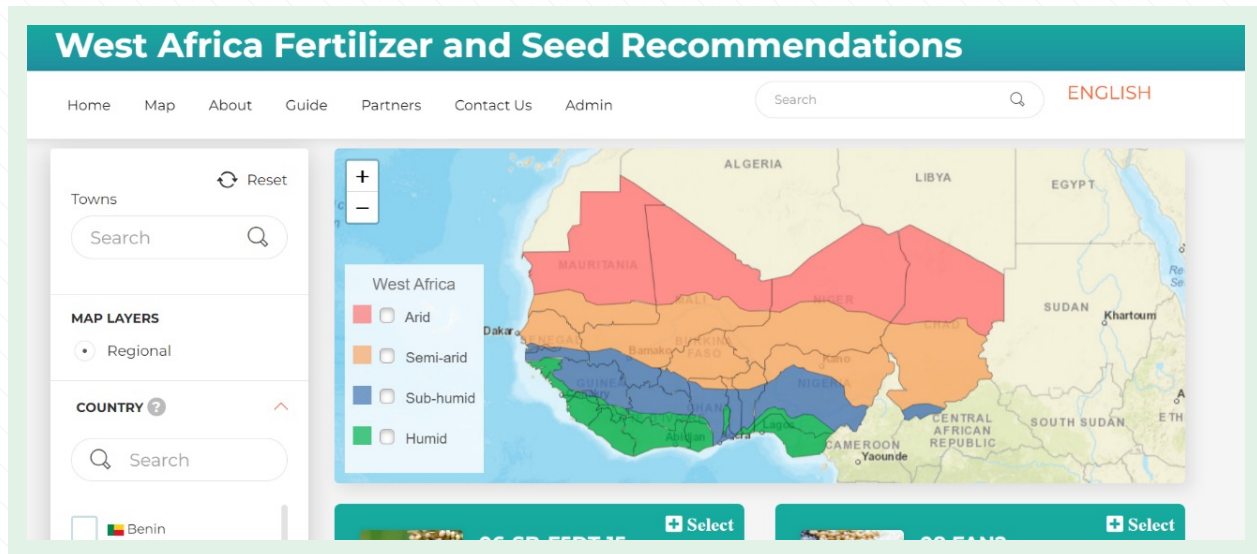


Figure 12. The FeSeRWAM Main Page

- ✓ CORAF and IFDC signed a LoA to facilitate implementation of the communication and marketing strategy of FeSeRWAM and PAIRED. Under this LoA, Farm Radio International and a local consultant conducted training of trainers courses in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, and Togo in the optimal use of FeSeRWAM and agro-input packages (AIPs).
- ✓ A regional knowledge-exchange and training meeting on Fall armyworm (FAW) and emerging productivity bio-risks was conducted with participation of candidates from West and Central Africa except Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, DR Congo, Central Africa, and Sierra Leone. During the regional meeting, communities of practice were established on the management of Fall armyworm (FAW) and other emerging productivity bio-risks.
- ✓ A regional workshop on sustainable management and capacity building in communication for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of the fall armyworm and other emerging risks to agricultural production was organized in Praia, Cape Verde, in June 2022. This event involved key plant protection stakeholders from West and Central Africa and regional and international institutions.

Use of quality agri-inputs in West Africa increased

The PAIRED project established strong collaborations and alliances with multi-sector partnerships to discuss technical, policy, organization, and market solutions to strengthen the performance the seed sector West and Central Africa. These partners included intergovernmental organizations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, IFDC, CILSS, FAO), the private sector comprising AFSTA, the NSTA in the target countries (UNIS, SEEDAN, NASTA, APPSN) and some leading seed companies, including NAFASO, SeedCo West Africa, SEDAP, and Faso Kaba.

A series of activities were organized involving seed entrepreneurship, seed business development and regional seed markets. Highlights of the events included the 2nd Ghana Seed Business and Networking Forum, the 4th Seed Connect Africa conference and Exhibition in Abuja, Nigeria, the annual AFSTA Congress 2022 in Djerba, Tunisia. These events brought together seed industry actors, investors, seed experts and policymakers from all over Africa to exchange experiences, to network and create business links with local, regional, and international partners.



Figure 13. *Seed business training*

PAIRED project strengthened the capacity of West African women seed business entrepreneurs in quality seed production business management, gender mainstreaming and women leadership. Regional training courses were conducted in Abidjan (11th - 15th April 2022) and national training in Ghana (12th - 15th October 2022) and in Niger (17th - 20th October 2022). The program contributed to skills capacity-strengthening of 130 women and youth seed entrepreneurs in quality seed production, business management and supported the creation of a regional network of women seed entrepreneurs in West Africa, to support the participation of women in the seed industry.

The PAIRED project played a pivotal role in reinforcing the implementation of regional seed regulation and streamlining regional seed trade procedures in West Africa, achieving the following key milestones:

- ✓ Creation of a regionally harmonized procedures manual for seed import and export.
- ✓ Collaborative effort with INSAH/CILSS to enhance the electronic platform responsible for managing the regional database of plant variety releases.
- ✓ Successful organization of the 17th Statutory Meeting of the Regional Seed and Seedling Committee (WARSSC).

- ✓ Active engagement with the Heads of the National Seed Services of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mauritania, and The Gambia to bolster their national capacity and facilitate the adoption of regional seed protocols through meaningful national reforms.

To strengthen the national capacities of public system actors and private sector players, the PAIRED project organized many training sessions involving 447 persons consisting of 34% female, while 51% were from the private-sector. Topics covered during the trainings included:

- I. Techniques and procedures in conducting the DUS and VCU testing of new varieties candidate for release;
- II. Quality seed production;
- III. Seed business management and marketing; and
- IV. Seed regulation and seed quality assurance.

Many West African countries started considering introduction of a system for the protection of new plant varieties in order to protect breeder rights and create incentives for national breeding programs. To support this initiative PAIRED, in collaboration with NARIs, NSS, and international partners, namely OAPI, ARIPO, and UPOV, organized several advocating meetings and training sessions to support and fast track

implementation of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) in West Africa.

Gender Mainstreaming

Women and youth constitute 62% and 65% of the agricultural labor force, respectively, and play an important role in rural economies and household food and nutrition security. However, women have limited access to productive agricultural resources including appropriate technologies and innovations, certified seeds and fertilizers, agricultural infrastructure, credit, and agricultural extension services.

Gender mainstreaming in the PAIRED project involved a combination of approaches. PAIRED activities were screened for compliance, to guide stakeholders with orientations provided by the CORAF gender policy. The following actions were undertaken during year 2022:

(i). The PAIRED team provided Woman-with centric technical support to ensure that gender and youth dimensions were mainstreamed in project activities. About 30% women and 18% youth benefited from this support.

(ii). PAIRED facilitated creation of a Network of Women Leaders in the Seed Industry in West and Central Africa to promote women's entrepreneurship in seed industry, and to upscale distribution of quality seeds in response to demands in the CORAF mandate zone. Members of the network benefited from series of trainings, to build their capacity on quality seed production techniques, drying, processing and storage of quality seeds, seeds quality control and compliance with regional seeds certification schemes,

seeds business management and marketing, gender and communication in seed industry, and women's leadership development in the seed industry. The training program was conducted by experts from AfricaRice, AfricaSeeds, CNRA (NARS of Cote-d'Ivoire), ANASEMCI, RTI (Cote National Television and Broadcast). The Training activities were conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, with active participation of the Representatives of the Ministry of Gender, Family and Child Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire. Following training, a bureau of the network was established with all the members operating as seed entrepreneurs.

(iii). Seed business trainings for youth and women entrepreneurs were successfully conducted in Ghana and in Niger to launch

implementation of the network workplan. Participants were trained in quality seed production techniques, drying, processing and storage of quality seeds, seeds quality control and compliance with regional seeds certification schemes, seeds business management and marketing. In Ghana, the training involved 26 females, 24 males, with 2 female facilitators/Mentors and 3 male facilitators/Mentors. Participants were drawn from the Upper West Region, Savanna, Northern, and North -East Regions of Ghana.

(iv). In Niger, training was conducted for 47 women, 22 men, 28 youth, targeting the most vulnerable women and youth coming from remote rural areas.

(v). A communication campaign was organized to promote Women Leaders in the Seed Industry Network. Radio Cote d'Ivoire dedicated a special broadcast to the network, with interviews of the members from Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin, and Ghana.

Monitoring, evaluation, knowledge management, and learning (MEAL) and governance

The PAIRED team established a regional MEAL working group composed of experts from the National Agricultural Research Institutes to ensure effective linkages between existing M&E mechanisms in West and Central Africa. The objective of this working group is to promote effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress of agricultural research for development in the region. Furthermore, this working group served as a taskforce with technical expertise to perform M&E functions within the CORAF community.

Overview of Implemented CORAF projects

Overall, 10 projects were implemented during the year and this sub-section provides a brief overview on each project including its objective, total funding.

Table 1 Summary of 2022 CORAF Projects.

	Project Title and Donor	Implementing Countries
1	ABEE: 2019 – 2024 West Africa Breeding Networks and Extension Empowerment (ABEE) European Union: € 8,771,930	Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal
2	BIORISKS (2020 – 2024) The Biorisks project. European Union: €5 million	10 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, RDC, Sierra Leone and Togo)
3	CAADP-XP4: 2019-2023 (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program) European Union: €6,557,000	West and Central Africa
4	iREACH: (Innovation Research, Extension and Advisory Coordination Hub) Kansas State University and USAID West Africa US\$ 249,000	23 CORAF members and Executive Secretariat
5	PAIRED: 2017-2022 Partnerships for Agricultural Research, Education and Development USAID-WA: US\$ 15 million	WCA with focus on Benin, Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Senegal, and Mali.
6	ProPAD: 2018-2023 Strengthening climate resilience and sustain- able agricultural productivity in Chad. World Bank: US\$ 41 million	Chad
7	TARSPRO 2020 - 2024 (Agricultural Technologies and Innovations for Increasing the Resilience of Production Systems) 5,682,000.000 XOF. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad

	Project Title and Donor	Implementing Countries
8	AICCRA (Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa} World Bank. US\$ 60 million	Ghana, Mali, Senegal
9	GIRAV {Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project). US\$ 40 million	The Gambia
10	FSRP: 2019 – 2024The Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) Flagship regional investment program US\$ 1,350million	Phase 1 Burkina Faso, Niger, and Togo Phase 2 Chad, Ghana, Senegal, and Sierra Leone

1. *ABEE project*

The ABEE project aims at implementing a well-coordinated approach to varietal selection both at the regional and national levels. This was done by placing breeders from three countries (Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal) at the heart of the action to improve and modernize their breeding practices and better identify market demands. The targeted and focused crops are millet, sorghum, fonio, cowpea and groundnuts.

2. *Biorisks project*

The Biorisks project aims at increasing production, stabilizing yields and incomes of major food and fruit crops in ten countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Togo) in West and Central Africa by controlling cassava virus diseases,

fall armyworm in maize and mango fruit flies; hence enabling national stakeholders and regional networks to properly manage bio-aggressors.

3. *CAADP-XP4 project*

The CAADP-XP4 aims to enhance capacity of CORAF to strengthen and support agricultural knowledge and innovation partners at all levels in West and Central Africa to transform agriculture and food systems and influence policy formulation through effective linkages to and use of climate-relevant science, knowledge, and innovation. The direct beneficiaries of this initiative are the CORAF Executive Secretariat and the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of the 23 countries in WCA. The ultimate beneficiaries comprise resource poor and smallholder farmers, agro-processors, rural youth and women

entrepreneurs, individual producers and producer organizations/groups, cooperatives, and pastoralists as well as the marginalized and vulnerable communities in WCA.

4. *iREACH Initiative*

The vision of iREACH is to strengthen CORAF to meet the objectives of its strategic plan more widely with its broad range of partners throughout the region. The initiative's mission is to better coordinate, align and integrate research, extension, and advisory activities in the region for efficient use of resources and to meet the demands of different clienteles including producers, researchers, policy makers and the private sector. In addition, iREACH will contribute to improved coordination of activities funded by USAID and other key donors of CORAF and the Innovation Labs in the region – as a result, making program implementation efficient and effective.

In an initial pilot phase of approximately four (4) years, iREACH had focus on USAID's activities in Feed the Future and Resilience Zones in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Senegal, though not very exclusive. For the pilot-phase, iREACH's objectives are to: (i) Improve coordination, alignment, and integration of relevant activities; (ii) Create and strengthen

technology parks and facilitate effective flow of information and innovations and (iii) Build human and institutional capacity.

USAID has provided initial funding to start the iREACH through funding to KSU/SIIL for the period covering mid-2020 to Mid-2022. The team collectively followed through with USAID missions across the five countries to seek country-level support for iREACH activities. For 2022, Africa-RISING has allocated funds to support and develop technology parks (e.g., Ghana and/or Mali) while IFDC allocated funds for Niger. In addition to Senegal, SIIL/KSU allocated funds for Burkina Faso.

5. *5- PAIRED project*

In June 2017, the USAID West Africa Mission awarded CORAF US\$15 Million to facilitate the implementation of a five-year program named Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED) in West and Central Africa. PAIRED is implemented through three interdependent components namely: (i) CORAF capacity strengthened for effective coordination of agricultural research and development; (ii) Innovative scaling framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations (T&Is) (Figure 1) established in West Africa (WA); and (iii) Use of quality

Agri-inputs in WA increased. Through Component 1, a Strategic Plan (2018-2027), an Operational Plan (2018-2022); and a Resource Mobilization Plan were developed and adopted by the CORAF General Assembly in April 2018. Both the SP and OP provided strategic directions for the finalization of Components 2 and 3 of the PAIRED Program. Components 2 and 3 were approved by USAID in December 2018. The program is supporting CORAF to undertake systemic reforms to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism of the organization. These efforts have positioned CORAF in becoming a stellar instrument for regional coordination of agricultural research, and to put it on a path to financial stability and sustainability. PAIRED is being implemented in six (6) countries in West Africa (Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) and the major partners are NARIs (INRAB, CSIR/CRI, CSIR/SARI, IER, INRAN, IAR, NCRI and ISRA), ECOWAS, and IFDC.

6. ProPAD project

The Government of Chad received funding (\$US41 million) from the World Bank Group to implement a Climate Resilience Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement (ProPAD) project for a period of five years (2018-2023). On June 18th, 2018, the Government of Chad signed an agreement involving \$US 0.77

million, with CORAF so that the country's researchers will benefit from the network of CORAF's Centers of Specialization and have access to the technologies and know-how generated by these centers.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to promote the adoption of improved technologies leading to increased productivity and strengthening the climatic resilience of agricultural production systems in the Mandoul, Moyen Chari and Salamat zones. CORAF areas of support to the project include (i) Integrate Chad into CORAF's regional cooperation and knowledge sharing technical networks; (ii) Develop a communication and knowledge management strategy; (iii) Facilitate the inclusion of climate change and gender in R&D programs; and (iv) Support the establishment of a sustainable and competitive agricultural research funding mechanism.

7. TARSPRO project

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) signed a partnership agreement with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (DDC) on 30 November 2020 to scale up agricultural technologies and innovations to increase the resilience of production systems and family farms in West and

Central Africa (TARSPRO). The TARSPRO program will deploy on family farms a range of technologies, innovations and knowledge to address the challenges of climate change, population growth and increased urbanization. The overall objective of TARSPRO is to ensure food, nutritional and economic security for the populations of West and Central Africa. This project covers five countries in West and Central Africa namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad. The total budget is about 5,682,000.000 XOF for a period of 4 years (from November 2020 to December 2024) The implementation partners are ECOWAS, INRAs, and BuCO among others.

8. AICCRA project

The Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project is funded by the World Bank for a total budget of \$US 60 million of which 570,000 for CORAF Executive Secretariat. The Project development objective is to strengthen the capacity of targeted CCAFS (CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security) partners and stakeholders, and to enhance access to climate information services and validated climate-smart agriculture technologies in IDA-eligible countries in Africa. Through the project, CORAF will be capacitated with relevant knowledge and tools to serve as conduit for the innovative science and products generated by AICCRA to reach the regional and national actors from the value chains. CORAF will also support establishing and scaling up the mechanisms for delivery of CSA packages and climate services to beneficiaries from the various value chains, regionally. In addition, AICCRA will also support capacity strengthening on CSA and climate agro-advisories for policymakers and program administrators in ECOWAS zone. The project geographic coverage is West Africa with focus on Ghana, Mali, and Senegal. The implementing period is from 2021 to 2023 and the main implementing partners are CSIR (Ghana), IER (Mali), and ISRA (Senegal).

9. GIRAV project

The Government of The Gambia received a Grant totaling US\$ 40.0 million from World Bank to finance the Gambia Inclusive Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV).

The objective of this project is to promote the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and Agri entrepreneurs in project targeted areas. The objectives will be achieved through: (i) increased access to and wide-scale adoption of improved

technologies, innovations, and advisory services adapted to the needs and scale of farmers and SMEs; (ii) increased productivity, competitiveness, and resilience at the farm level as well as downstream in the target value chains; and (iii) increased agricultural productivity through climate-smart intensification of selected production systems, focusing on enhancing water management and fostering access to improved climate smart agriculture technologies and innovations.

CORAF's role is to facilitate: (i) The Gambia's integration into the networks of National Centers of Specialization (NCoS) and RCoE established under WAAPP, and the country's ongoing regional cooperation in agriculture; (ii) updating of the national extension system; (iii) the promotion of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices; (iv) communication for development; (v) the consolidation of gender mainstreaming; and (vi) capacity building for the project implementation team in M&E, results-based management, and other competencies as needed.

10. FSRP project

The Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) is a flagship regional investment program (US\$ 1,350 million) aimed at building food system resilience in West Africa through a strategic regional approach. The Program will fund investments in three (3) mutually reinforcing thematic areas: (i) Digital advisory services for agriculture and food crises prevention and management; (ii) Sustainability and adaptive capacity of the food system productive base (sustainable land and watershed management, agro-ecological approaches); and (iii) Market integration and trade (development of the regional staple food value chain). Each area will be led by a mandated regional institution (AGRHYMET, CORAF, and ECOWAS) to ensure coordination and build sustainable capacity. CORAF is leading the component 2 on Sustainability and adaptive capacity of the food system productive base (sustainable land and watershed management, agro-ecological approaches).

The Program Development Objective (PDO) is to: "Enhance the management of risks specific to regional food systems, improve the sustainability of the production base in targeted areas, and develop regional agricultural markets". Specifically, the program will help to increase the food system resilience in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Togo (under Phase 1); Ghana, Chad, and Sierra Leone (under Phase 2), Senegal (Phase 3) through investments in regional risk management, staple food trade and sustainable production base.

CORAF Partnerships

CORAF has established a sound system for managing partnerships for effective coordination of agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa. Effective partnerships continued to provide the basis for collaboration in pursuing the results outputs of the CORAF Strategic Plan 2018 – 2027 and Operational Plan 2018–2022.

During the year 2022, CORAF focused attention on consolidating existing partnerships and establishing new ones. Thus, CORAF Executive Secretariat engaged a wide range of partners including social enterprises, private sector, producers and processors, researchers, development partners as well as policy makers. These partners included institutions such as the CGIAR, NGOs, Regional Economic Communities, sub-Regional Organizations (ASARECA and CCARDESA), AFAAS and FARA and the 23 National Agricultural Research Systems as well as the private sector in the CORAF mandate region. Under the framework of Memoranda of Understanding CORAF concretized fifteen (15) partnerships including renewed partnerships with the OneCGIAR, for strengthening collaboration to support agricultural technology generation and uptake in Africa and partnership agreements with the ChildFund and the Global Green Growth Institute. Key partnerships established during the year are as follows.

ASTI/IFPRI.

CORAF renewed collaboration with ASTI/IFPRI to strengthen AR4D monitoring in West and Central Africa, because CORAF recognized that it has become increasingly essential for quantitative information to be used as a basis for understanding the contribution of science and technology to agricultural growth. In this context, in partnership with IFPRI, CORAF initiated the foundation for long-term monitoring of agricultural R&D resources in West and Central Africa, generating data, developing national and regional analyses, and disseminating knowledge. CORAF coordinated ASTI activities in West and Central Africa in close collaboration with IFPRI and NARIs under Data collection and reporting, analysis and capacity engagement and outreach activities.

UNDRR:

CORAF was nominated by the UNDRR to join the Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance which provided a platform for achieving climate resilient food systems by synergizing efforts across different actors that are part of

the international Alliance. CORAF signed an MOU with the Gambia Inclusive Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV) supported by a US\$ 40 million World Bank grant, to be implemented through existing public and private sector institutional mandates.

EU/IFAD Collaboration:

CORAF, in collaboration with sister sub-regional organizations and FARA, as well as AFAAS, are implementing an EU-funded and IFAD-administered CAADP-XP4 project. CORAF is responsible for implementing the CAADP-XP4 project in West and Central Africa from 2019 to 2023. Using a facilitative approach and linking all CAADP XP4 interventions to the result areas of CORAF's 2018-2022 Operational Plan, CORAF worked through existing networks to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in West and Central Africa with support of the European Union and IFAD. Through CAADP-XP4, CORAF raised awareness and facilitated the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (zero hunger) and combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13), promoted progress towards poverty reduction (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) in the target countries of the West and Central Africa. Ultimately, this effort will contribute to Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration of the African Union.

World Bank:

Following the successful implementation of the WAAPP program, CORAF participated in the development and implementation of the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) and is leading Component 2: Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System Productive Base.

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC):

In November 2020, CORAF initiated partnership with the Swiss Development Cooperation to support the implementation of the CORAF Strategic Plan 2018-2027. The SDC financial commitment of XOF 5,682,000,000 is over twelve (12) years period. The first phase of four years corresponds to implementation of the TARSPRO project, Deployment of Agricultural Technologies and Innovations to Increase the Resilience of Production Systems and Family Farms in West and Central Africa. The main objective of this new project is to ensure food, nutritional and economic security of the populations of West and Central Africa, through (i) increases in the resilience and productivity of family farms, (ii) sustainably to meet the demands for know-how (technologies and innovations) of family farms, and (iii) ensuring the coalition and synergy of actions between actors in agricultural transformation.

The African Association of Insect Scientists (AAIS):

CORAF and AAIS entered a renewed partnership to raise awareness and inform stakeholders about the impact of bio-aggressors, bio-risks and more specifically, about cassava viral diseases, fall armyworm and mango flies on agricultural productivity in West Africa. An international conference was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2022, to share scientific results through technologies and innovations developed and raise awareness and sensitize actors about the various diseases and pests that are hampering agricultural productivity in Africa.

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL):

A first iteration to establish a long-term relationship for exploiting complementary research, institutional development, and capacity building. The initial areas of collaboration include CORAF bringing in expertise and providing recommendations on research collaboration for the support of National Centers of Specialization (NCOS) on key agro-products and crops while KUL provides opportunities of hosting mid-career scientists from CORAF territory for 2–3-month exchange visits at KULeuven to carry out specific research that require expertise or tools not available in West and Central Africa and Europe.



AfricaSeeds:

AfricaSeeds is the African inter-governmental seed sector development organization with extensive experience in the implementation of the African Seed and Biotechnology Program (ASBP) of African Union. As a result, ASBP has been designed to address all the seed concerns of African countries, including ensuring “Effective seed policies and regulations in place to enable and promote increased seed trade among African nations”, and the program’s effective implementation which requires the contribution of all seed initiatives at all levels in Africa. CORAF has consistently highlighted the need for synergy and efficient use of resources to develop and promote the African seed sector which is complex and can only be treated efficiently and sustainably through relevant partnerships amongst stakeholders. Based on these needs, CORAF and AfricaSeeds initiated a partnership through an MOU towards a stronger collaboration and to contribute to the effective and sustainable development of the seed sector in Africa.

Climate Smart Organic Green Initiative (CSOGI):

Through the signing of an MOU, CORAF and CSOGI agreed to address common development areas of sustainable agriculture. Through this partnership it is believed that CORAF and CSOGI can improve the development impacts



of present and future operations. CSOGI is a social enterprise currently registered in 10 sub-Saharan countries with a mandate to mobilize countries resources for sustainable agriculture development projects in West, East and Southern African countries, especially those classified as low-income, and food insecure countries.

Seed Co West & Central Africa Limited:

Seed Co West & Central Africa Limited is a joint-venture between Seed Co International Limited and Vilmorin Nederland Holding (a wholly owned affiliate of Vilmorin & Cie – Limagrain Group) with the aim to provide all the farmers in West and Central Africa with high quality seeds, whether for subsistence farming or commercial farming. In this reporting period, CORAF and Seed Co WECA recognized their common interests and the benefits of working together to achieve their respective mission, goal and objective and established a potential partnership to transform the West and Central African seed system and achieve productivity gains.

The Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (CPCU/GI-RAV):

Following the successful project development phase of the FSRP, CORAF in collaboration with ECOWAS and CILSS prepared activities towards the implementation of the World Bank project Food System Resilience Program (FSRP).

CORAF is leading the development of Component 2: Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System's Productive Base. Additionally, the Central Projects Coordinating Unit in charge of the implementation of The Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (CPCU/GIRAV) established an MOU with CORAF to increase agricultural productivity through climate-smart intensification of selected production systems, focusing on enhancing water management and fostering access to improved climate smart agriculture technologies and innovations.



Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI):

CORAF entered an MOU with GGGI during this reporting period. The primary objective of GGGI is to promote sustainable development in developing and emerging countries, including the least developed countries, through a development approach that seeks to

deliver economic growth that is both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. The purpose of the MoU is to formalize a framework of cooperation and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to promote direct access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for climate change projects/programs in Africa.



Governance and leadership

Activities of the Governance Bodies

CORAF organized the 31st Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors through a hybrid format from January 18-20 in N'djamena, Chad. All discussions were held in person and via teleconference chaired by Dr. Angela Maria P. Barreto da Veiga Moreno, Chairperson of the CORAF Board of Directors.

This meeting was followed by the 13th Ordinary Session of the CORAF General Assembly in N'djamena, Chad from January 25 – 27 (Figure 14) in the physical presence of its stakeholders, including agricultural research institutions, member NARS, representatives of regional producer organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, universities, the private sector, development partners,

and scientific and technical partners, as well as representatives of RECs (ECCAS, CEMAC), members of the Board of Directors, members of the Scientific and Technical Committee, staff of the CORAF Executive Secretariat and members of ITRAD. Others partners attended virtually due to the continued constraint of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel. PER.

Figure 14. The 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly addressed issues relating to the negative impact of COVID-19 and the health crisis on agriculture. Following interactive, and exhaustive deliberations, the General Assembly formulated critical



Figure 14. The 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly (GA)

recommendations and resolutions under the following themes,

- I.** Mobilization of financial resources.
- II.** Review of documents by the General Assembly,
- III.** Extension of the term of appointment of the Board of Directors,
- IV.** Strategic positioning and visibility of CORAF,
- V.** Capacity building of human resources in Central Africa, and vi. Institutional partnerships

The 32nd Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors, was organized from 5-7 July 2022, in Nouakchott, Mauritania. This Board meeting was preceded by an open day on agricultural research in Mauritania in the form of a technology fair dubbed: «Research,

innovation and technology transfer for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in West and Central Africa – Case of Mauritania”

The 8th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors took place on 14th December 2022, in Dakar, Senegal. This session was devoted to succession planning in relation to the governance bodies of CORAF. Preparations were initiated for the 14th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly scheduled for Cotonou, Benin, in April 2024

CORAF satisfied the World Bank preconditions for effectiveness of grants within the framework of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) implementation, consequently the US \$ 18 million FSRP was launched on 13-15 June 2022 in Lomé, Togo.



CORAF Human Capital Resources

Au cours de l'année 2022, l'équipe du Secrétariat Exécutif du CORAF était
During the year 2022, the CORAF Executive Secretariat team consisted of 29 employees, assisted by ten (10) consultants, two (02) interns and one (01) temporary staff spread between the departments of the Executive Secretariat.

Analysis of the CORAF human resources profile showed that Consultants represented about 25% of CORAF's workforce and contributed, to some extent, to the CORAF budget financial balance, while avoiding financial implications, such as payment of income tax, minimum fiscal tax, social, CSS, associated with fixed-term and permanent contracts.

The CORAF Intern program remained stable during the year. Senegal has schools and universities which admit students from West and Central Africa and the CORAF Interns program offered opportunities to complement Interns theoretical knowledge with an immersion and work exposure.

A Human Resources Manager was recruited to support CORAF to make a qualitative breakthrough in staff management required to improve organizational efficiency.

CORAF also expedited recruitment of the staff required for implementation of the Food Systems Resilience Program. Staff positions, such as the Procurement Officer, Internal Controller and Bilingual Executive Assistant, held by service providers were reassigned as fixed-term contracts. The World Bank granted non-Objection for the recruitment of Program Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Procurement Specialist. The World Bank also authorized the part-time appointment of the following focal points: (i) Environment, (ii) Social Development and (iii) Gender-based Violence.

During the year, CORAF continued to implement Institutional reforms including a revised organogram, a new staff pay scale, a new staff contract template, and tools to facilitate teamwork. An Access System to the premises was upgraded to facilitate identification of CORAF employees.



More effective management of CORAF human resources was initiated through various actions including, definition of human resources functions, recruitment, new staff induction and onboarding, staff evaluation mechanisms, disciplinary management, and management of staff departures. The Executive Secretariat organized a staff retreat in March 2022 to re-mobilize the teams around institutional objectives and to identify the challenges facing staff performance. The retreat also sought to collect proposals for improving the CORAF working environment and to identify ways of motivating staff. The retreat exercise was very much appreciated by colleagues, and it was suggested to sustain it and to reconsider its periodicity to further strengthen cohesion among the employees.

Staff training activities conducted during the year included a staff capacity strengthening and social cohesion retreat from March 16 to 19, a team building session from October 5 to 7, and a training session in the drafting of diplomatic correspondence organized on May 24, 25 and 27 to enhance staff skills in this area.



Administration et finances

During the year, CORAF adapted to the new global context, including the impacts of COVID19, and resumed almost 100% of its field activities. With collaboration and assistance from financial and technical partners, CORAF implemented strategies to cope with the health and economic implications of the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic for efficient project implementation.

Administration

The Executive Secretariat currently had 29 employees, 12 of whom were core staff and 17 assigned to projects, 48% of whom are women and 52% men. Institutional reforms undertaken under USAID funding,

involved some institutional level positions held by service providers, including Procurement Officer, Internal Controller and Bilingual Executive Assistant, were reassigned as fixed-term contracts. Personnel changes during the year included the following:

- I. Recruitment of the Human Resources Manager
- II. Recruitment of the Coordinator and the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of the FSRP project

An Access system to the CORAF premises was upgraded to facilitate identification of different CORAF employees.

In the context of post-COVID-19,

CORAF Executive Secretariat operated in a complex and rapidly changing environment to achieve the most suitable institutional capacity to implement its agenda. Following approval of recommendations of Deloitte & Touche by the CORAF Board of Directors, implementation of the following recommendations were initiated **(i)** Definition of a target organizational chart, **(ii)** Review of the CORAF compensation model and salary grid, **(iii)** Implementation of a results-based management model and performance culture, **(iv)** Definition of a collaborative work environment, **(v)** Definition of a managerial framework that increases the responsibility and effectiveness of CORAF employees, and **(vi)** Support for implementation of a performance management system. A team building workshop was organized in March 2022, to galvanize the CORAF staff's efforts to embrace an improved culture of results-based management.

Furthermore, an audit firm was recruited to conduct a review of CORAF Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) rate established and approved by the Board of Directors in 2018. Through this review, CORAF was able to adjust the maximum allowable indirect cost on grants or contract agreements. The Directorate of Corporate Services continued to provide programme

management and procurement support to project implementation.

Finance and Resource Mobilization

Funding for the Operational Plan 2018-2022 was estimated at US\$ 60,902,586 while for the Operational Plan 2023-2027 is about US\$ 50,000,000, representing approximately US\$ 110,902,586 for the Strategic Plan 2018-2027.

The total funds mobilized left a funding gap of approximately US\$ 33,309,233 to cover the funding requirements for the Strategic Plan 2018-2027.

As of November 30, 2022, a total of US\$ 77,393,353 was mobilized to implement the Operational Plan (OP 2018-2022), which was an overrun of approximately US\$ 16,696,767 (27%) that was credited to Operational Plan 2023-2027.

Status of Funding at the close of 2022

Several project agreements which ended in 2022, included with USAID for the PAIRED Project, with Kansas State University, and small agreements with CILSS and FAO.

Status of ongoing agreements and funding secured

The total amount of funding agreements being implemented and secured for the 2023 was US\$54,008,146.

Funding being mobilized

CORAF mobilized and secured funds worth US\$3,186,000 through partnerships with the World Bank and CIAT.

Furthermore, CORAF signed an MOU for regional coordination of a World Bank project based in The Gambia for US\$ 1,200,000 for 4-years with management fees to CORAF amounting to US\$ 400,000.

Contributions of member institutions

Annual contributions by CORAF members as of November 30, 2022 was CFAF 227,960,000 (US\$ 414,473). A total amount of CFAF 14,507,318 (US\$ 526,377) was recorded as contributions for the year 2022 from CSIR Ghana, INERA-DRC, INIDA, and ITRAD-Chad, IRAD-Cameroon, IRAG-Guinea and IRA-Congo.

Cash Situation

Cash lodged by CORAF in various bank accounts domiciled in Dakar amount to CFAF 2, 197, 689,004 (US\$ 53, 995,798) as at November 30, 2022

The cash includes funds allocated to programs or projects being implemented as well as staff entitlements, end-of-contract allowances and retirement allowances.

Audits and Fiduciary Reviews

Audits of CORAF Accounts for 2021
Three audits conducted during the year comprise:

- ⊕ Joint audits of the accounts of CORAF, TARSPRO project, and Desira ABEE project by Mazars Senegal;
- ⊕ Audit of the accounts of the PAIRED-USAID project by Ernst & Young Ghana;
- ⊕ Audit of the accounts of CAADPXP4 project by COFIMA Benin.

The audits of these accounts were certified with unqualified opinions and recommendations were made on internal control to be addressed by CORAF.

World Bank Fiduciary Review

The Executive Secretariat received a fiduciary support mission from the World Bank in November 2022, and concluded that the fiduciary management was satisfactory.

Revised 2022 Annual Program of Work and Budget (APWB)

Following intense resumption of activities, the Annual Budget Work Plan was revised, and approved by the CORAF Board of Directors (shown in Table 2) to be consistent with resource utilization and with the reality on the ground.

Table-2: Revised 2022 Annual Program of Work and Budget (APWB)

Donors	AWPB Approved January 2022 (FCFA)	Revised 2022 AWPB (FCFA)	Variation (FCFA)	Variation Rate%
USAID PAIRED	2 017 626 019	1 842 680 540	174 945 479	-9
CAADP EX PILIER 4	1 348 387 431	925 082 382	423 305 049	-46
CORAF WAVE	616 661 059	411 911 059	204 750 000	-50
DeSIRA ABEE	1 195 479 016	885 479 016	310 000 000	-35
ProPAD	129 101 500	83 795 800	45 305 700	-54
COOPÉRATION DDC-SUISSE	3 437 832 085	2 928 564 892	509 267 193	-17
iREACH	108 077 200	108 077 200	0	0
AICCRA	105 276 000	105 276 000	0	0
FORMATION DES JEUNES DE LA CEDEAO	237 676 329	237 676 329	0	0
REG SEMEN CEDEAO	37 654 150	37 654 150	0	0
FAO	112 474 155	112 474 155	0	0
FSRP	1 037 026 900	392 000 000	645 026 900	-165
TOTAL	10 383 271,844	8 070 671 523	2 312 600 321	-29

Disbursements as at November 30, 2022

Disbursement rate for the 2022 AWPB was 58%, that is FCFA 4,688,796,755

(US\$8,525,085). These disbursements (Table 3) were for implementation activities for the projects, PAIRED, DeSIRA ABEE, WAVE and TARSPRO.

Tableau 3 : Décaissements au 30 novembre 2022

Donors/Project	2022 AWPB FCFA	Disbursements FCFA	Balance FCFA	Execution Rate %
USAID PAIRED	1 842 680 540	1 368 285 177	474 395 363	74,26
CAADP EX PILIER 4	925 082 382	305 681 062	619 401 320	33,04
CORAF WAVE	411 911 059	394 570 862	17 340 197	95,79
DeSIRA ABEE	885 479 016	657 598 837	227 880 179	74,26
ProPAD	83 795 800	21 588 397	62 207 403	25,76
COOPÉRATION DDC- SUISSE	2 928 564 892	1 539 091 990	1 389 472 902	52,55
iREACH	108 077 200	65 212 860	42 864 340	60,34
AICCRA	105 276 000	8 492 830	96 783 170	8,07
FORMATION DES JEUNES DE LA CEDEAO	237 676 329	124 180 572	113 495 757	52,25
REG SEMEN CEDEAO	37 654 150	37 852 209	-198 059	100,53
FAO	112 474 155	106 811 959	5 662 196	94,97
FSRP	392 000 000	59 430 000	332 570 000	15,16
TOTAL	8, 070, 671, 523	4, 688, 796 ,755	3, 381, 874, 768	58

Financial Situation of Projects

The completion rates for the projects being implemented are shown in Table 4. The PAIRED project ended on December 19, 2022 with a completion rate of 84%, together with some small initiatives with ECOWAS and

FAO funding giving a completion rate of about 100%. Projects funded by the European Union and the Swiss Cooperation were two years into implementation. The World Bank funded projects started in October 2022.

Table 4: Status of execution of CORAF projects

Donors	Initial Budget US\$	Achievement US\$	Balance US\$	Completion rate (%)
USAID -PAIRED	15 000 000	12 610 742	2 389 258	84
DeSIRA ABEE -EU	11 508 019	3 945 508	7 562 511	34
CORAF WAVE -UE	6 559 570	1 850 756	4 708 814	28
CAADP EX PILIER 4 -IFAD	6 881 587	1 513 208	5 368 379	22
AICCRA	500 000	15 005	484 995	3
REG SEMEN CEDEAO	70 000	70 000	0	100
FORMATION DES JEUNES DE LA CEDEAO	432 139	225 753	206 386	52
ProPAD -WB	770 000	170 093	599 907	22
FAO	441 893	354 557	87 336	80
COOPÉRATION SUISSE	11 364 000	3 802 149	7 561 851	33
FSRP/BM	10 112 519	108 055	10 004 464	1
Coopération néerlandaise	3 000 000	0	3 000 000	0
GIRAV	1 200 000	0	1 200 000	0
FASA	473 120	0	473 120	0
TOTAL	68 312 847	24 665 826	43 647 021	36.11

Status of Advances to Sub-beneficiaries as of November 30, 2022

Table 5 shows an overview of the advances received yet to be justified by project.

The USAID/PAIRED funding ended on December 19, 2022 and CORAF undertook several actions to ensure

that project sub-recipients justified all funds. The remaining funds to justify for the DeSIRA projects were transferred to the projects' partner institutions in November 2022 and covered activities to commence early 2023.

Table 5: Status of unjustified advances as of November 30, 2022

Donors	Funds transferred (FCFA)	Justified Funds (FCFA)	Funds remaining to justify (FCFA)	% Balance to justify
PAIRED	785 852 592	769 411 976	16 440 616	2
DESIRA_ABEE	2 170 842 438	1 279 345 608	891 496 830	41
BIORISK_WAVE	704 903 088	294 921 921	409 981 167	58
TOTAL	3 661 598 118	2 343 679 505	1 317 918 613	36

Situation of Reserve Funds

The constitution of the reserve funds (Table 6) could not be resolved during the year because some projects directly support expenses related

to indirect costs. Despite this, the Executive Secretariat continued to explore mechanisms for mobilizing resources for core operations.

Table 6: Situation of Reserve Funds

Reserve funds available as at 30/11/2022	FCFA 36, 070, 144
Costs on session allowance transfer	FCFA 81, 091
Account keeping fees January - November 2022	FCFA 130, 996
Reserve funds available as at 30/11/2022	FCFA 35, 858, 057

Financial performance of the budget showed significant progress in the implementation of the work plan, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. CORAF achieved significant progress in resource mobilization and fiduciary management. With the gradual resumption of ECOWAS support through funding of the youth employment project, CORAF hopes to receive contribution for the core operations. Furthermore, CORAF

also relies on the commitment of its constituents to participate in the activities of the governance bodies through payment of annual membership dues as well as providing support for governance meetings such as the Board of Directors and the General Assembly. Finally, CORAF plans to focus on mobilizing resources to stabilize the institution's financial situation.

Communications and Marketing

CORAF continued to intensify communication and marketing activities to promote the impact of efforts to achieve sustainable agricultural production and productivity, food security, leading to improved livelihoods of communities in West and Central Africa. A dynamic communication strategy on social networks was implemented with continued adaptation to changes on the platforms to maintain optimal levels of performance. From content production to branding and coverage of CORAF events, the Communication and Marketing department continued to actively support CORAF institutional and programmatic activities.

During year 2022, two hundred and fifty (250) articles were published in English and French on the CORAF website to highlight the programme and institutional activities of CORAF. Most of the articles were posted on other CORAF platforms including PAIRED, and Web TV (Agripreneur TV). Additionally, 200 articles were published on the CORAF website where they can be accessed.

CORAF Community continued to increase impressively to approximately 242,000 followers on Facebook, 13,000 on Twitter, 37,000 on YouTube, 6,000 on LinkedIn and 2,000 on Instagram, which comes to a total of 300,000 followers on all social networks combined. CORAF achieved a total of 315,000 subscribers on social networks, and 258,000,000 people were reached on social networks.

Furthermore, CORAF publications on social networks recorded reaching out to over 230,000,000 people. The cumulative production on all platforms during the year attracted approximately

71,000 visitors, which generated about 180,000 page views.

CORAFs Communications and Marketing department provided communications support to three major events namely, (i) Symposium on the State of Agricultural Research in West and Central Africa, (ii) West and Central Africa Agricultural Research Leaders Forum, and (iii) Marketplace of Agricultural Innovation and Technology (MITA).

Supported to the Symposium included design of the symposium logo, production of a video trailer and publication of several articles in the CORAF website. Extensive press coverage was provided for The CORAF West and Central Africa Agricultural Research Leaders Forum, held in Yaoundé Cameroon. Organization of Agricultural Innovation and Technology Marketplace (MITA) was supported through publication of several press articles, production of 3 videos and several press releases by six media agencies in the sub region.

The CORAF Monthly Newsletter continued to be published and distributed online to over 8146 subscribers, and especially recording a 15 per cent increase in subscribers in Central Africa.

In the future, the CORAFs Communication and Marketing strategy will focus on increasing CORAF's visibility and reputation as well as building strong partnerships with the media in the West and Central Africa countries, leading the media to regularly approach CORAF to source the latest news about research and development.

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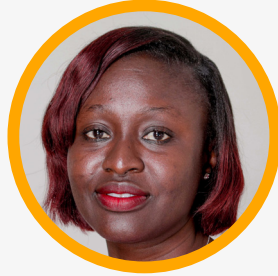
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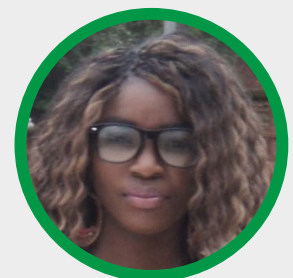
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Expressing Our Appreciation

The CORAF Governing Board, the Executive Secretariat and the entire CORAF community express profound appreciation for continued and unflinching support from international donors, Foundations, Bilateral agencies, The African Union Commission, Development Partners as well as international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR. We are also grateful for collaboration and support from partners in the national agricultural research systems, NARS, of the 23 CORAF member countries, NGOs, Regional Economic Communities, Farmer-based Organizations, Sub-regional Organizations, ASAREA and CCARDESA, AFAAS, and FARA, as well as with the Private Sector in West and Central Africa.



CORAF - Who We Are ?

CORAF is an international non-profit Association of the National Agricultural Research Systems of 23 West and Central African countries. Created in 1987, CORAF coordinates demand-driven research to unlock the agricultural potentials of the countries in West and Central Africa.

CORAF Vision Statement :

A sustainable reduction in poverty and food insecurity in West and Central Africa through an increase in agricultural-led economic growth and sustainable improvement of key aspects of the agricultural research system.

CORAF Mission Statement :

Sustainable improvements to the competitiveness, productivity and markets of the agricultural system in West and Central Africa by meeting the key demands of the sub-regional research system as expressed by target groups.



CORAF actively promotes sub-regional cooperation, mobilizes resources, creates synergies and envisages a future where the populations of West and Central Africa can achieve food and nutrition security, as well as improved livelihoods through sustainable increases in agricultural production and productivity.

Through implementing CORAF a Strategic Plan 2018-2027 and an accompanying Operational Plan 2018-2022, CORAF strengthens agricultural research, agricultural extension and advisory services, and stakeholder capacities, to establish Communities of Practice in agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa.





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