



**RESEAU DES ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES ET DES PRODUCTEURS
AGRICOLES DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (ROPPA)**

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ECOWAP/PDDA implementation process

Business meeting

Message of West African farmer organizations and producers

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I. The commitment of west African FO in the development of agricultural development policies and programs

Created by west African farmer organizations to defend and promote the values of a dynamic and strong farmer agriculture, ROPPA counts presently 13 member countries out of 15 ECOWAS countries and works in close collaboration with farmer platforms of two non member countries (Nigeria and Cap Verde)..

Aware of the roles and responsibilities they must play in the establishment of favorable conditions for West African nourishing agriculture, stable jobs, provided sustainable development and ensuring a sustainable management of natural resources, the ROPPA and its members OPPA freely and voluntarily pledged in all projects development and implementation of sectoral policies as regional and continental (PAU, NEPAD, ECOWAP)....

For the development of the ECOWAP, ROPPA is strongly mobilized through national and sub-regional workshops, facilitating concerted and a shared vision of FO on the basis of which they have organized and led their participation in regional and national consultations consensual definition.

Farmer organizations and agricultural producers of West Africa therefore welcome the fact that the agricultural policy of the sub region, ECOWAP developed a participatory process, which gives it certainly strong legitimacy, joined in its guidelines, objectives and principles, our vision of the role, square and the West African agricultural development project.

Specifically, we very strongly welcome the vision and the priority of the ECOWAP based on the promotion of family farms with a purpose aimed at the achievement of food sovereignty.

II. Principles and guidelines to preserve and strengthen the process of implementation.

The implementation of the ECOWAP falls under and is influenced by this context of post food crisis who travelled the world and the outbreak agricultural prices on the world market and that crystallizes the international and national agendas to most improved interventions in the development of local production offer.

If consensus seems now established between States, organizations of regional (OIER), Non State actors and partners to give priority to agriculture, economic integration is not the same on the type of agriculture to support, the institutional promotion to support agriculture, mechanisms for the participation of the actors, models and necessary funding mechanisms.

In this report all of the sub region must mobilize and undertake to ensure, at the time where open negotiations for the implementation of ECOWAP, a sleep on consideration and application of fundamental principles which are currently the guarantors of the

achievement of the objectives of this policy. These principles which must in no case be negotiated mainly focus on:

1. *Une agriculture centrée sur les exploitations familiales agricoles*

Family farmers are an important part in the workforce worldwide. Small producers constitute 85% of farmers in countries in development (World Bank 2008).

In Africa, 80 percent of all farms are family farms (Nagayets 2005).

In West Africa, agriculture contributes to 35% in the training of GDP and employs about 60% of the workforce. West African agriculture is essentially based on family farms which provide almost 90% of the production and control 85% of lands.

Three-quarters of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas and live mainly on agriculture.

Despite constraints of structural adjustment programs, West African agriculture had increased 20 years (FAO), which helped ensure a time or low power for a growing population. Crop production has been throughout multiplied by 3.2 and animal production grew quickly.

These performance sufficiently demonstrate that family farms have a capacity to adapt and potential that they express if certain conditions are met.

Investing in family agriculture in West Africa is crucial to ensure a sound and sufficient people power and a regular supply of domestic markets; maintain and create jobs in a context where industry punishment for take-off and public and private sector is not yet in capacity to ensure enough employment to population growth; to combat poverty, inequality and social exclusion, and foster sustainable management of natural resources.

2. *Food sovereignty-oriented agriculture*

Despite the importance of productive resources available to the West and their natural complementarity, the sous region is still largely dependent on food and agricultural imports.

The food deficit of \$ 2.9 billion in 1995 has increased 55% in 2003 to \$ 4.3 billion. This situation could get worse depending on the outcome of negotiations at the Doha WTO and EPAs between ECOWAS (more Mauritania) and the EU.

That is why the orientation of the purpose of ECOWAP towards food sovereignty is well amply justified. It is a fundamental need to be actually applied.

However, this implies a commitment and a determination of States, the OIER, the OPPA and others in the West to develop the possibilities to implement strategies and resources necessary to produce that West African populations need for food.

Regional integration with a political and instruments that protect appropriately agricultural and food products and markets of the sub region face often unfair competition from imports (outside of Africa) is a prerequisite.

III. Points to deepen in PRIA

FOs welcome ECOWAS for the process it has committed to the implementation of ECOWAP to PDDA. The PRIA, with consensus developed and validated by all groups of actors takes into account overall concerns and proposals of the OPPA to the West African agricultural development and the achievement of the objectives.

FOs, however within a few important considerations, themes that need to be better or even developed strengthened. This includes the following:

1. **Agriculture, particularly the agricultural credit financing.** In the sub region agriculture funding remains a major constraint to its development. Everywhere the credit rate is completely in phase difference with the profitability of agricultural activity. This does not allow family farms develop production initiatives and to invest. In addition, access very often excludes family farms. It will be possible to achieve the objectives assigned to the PRIA with tools and current practices of agricultural credit.

The FOs offer that the implementation of SIPP an opportunity to explore seriously and implement in favor of family farms and for all agricultural speculations and agri-food, processing mechanisms of bonus credit and financing facilities. This dimension should be strongly developed.

2. **The strengthening the network of peasant organizations.** The succession FO that the strategy advocated for strengthening the capacity of actors, including networks of OPPA networks must be further developed, specified and more explicit. For us it would be especially to facilitate and support innovative professional capacity-building projects and processes. Capitalization and sharing experiences of FO initiatives must be supported. The FO capacity-building must also take into account the capacity of FO networks to organize them to participate in the implementation of the NIPA and PRIA.
3. **Considering certain fundamental issues in progress in the country and emerging themes:** Lois agricultural policy, agricultural insurance, fuel agro, hoarding land, initiatives in support of the disasters....

Many dynamics are underway in different countries of the under region on the development and implementation of orientation agricultural legislation, review of land policies, implementation... of mechanisms agricultural insurance must be implemented within the framework of the PRIA to follow, capitalize, and accompany these issues crucial to the success of ECOWAP to PDDAA.

The issue of land grabbing to the detriment of small producers today is a reality in the sub region. Many initiatives are underway, brought by international institutions and Organization (CSO), civil society, but the question must be seriously documented by ECOWAS in the framework of PRIA to reach a position and ECOWAS solutions.

4. The issue of agricultural research. The FO recognize the need ever more agricultural research to help West African agriculture meet its current and future challenges. Agricultural research should support the modernization of farms, sustainable productivity growth and the development of agri-food processing. The FO are unfortunately current policies of States research and agricultural Council will allow to West African agriculture to face its challenges. Agricultural consulting and research institutions are dismantled since the structural adjustment programs and lack the means to work. States support efforts remain far short of the minimum they need to carry out their work effectively. The FO noted in this context, the propensity of research institutions to use funds competitive international to conduct research, lack of national and regional mechanisms appropriate to support agricultural research. This situation presents serious risks of away from priorities of the sub region. The PRIA significant attention to this issue and develop within specific funding mechanisms needs to effectively support agricultural research area.
5. The question of investment. The Panel should be also expanded. What kind of investments for what agriculture? The FO remain convinced that agricultural growth of 6% desired on the commitment of Heads of State and Government in Maputo must be made primarily by family farms if the sub region to affectively fight against food insecurity and poverty reduction. Also, must proposed investment primarily supporting family farming to increase productivity, profitability, and enhancement of their production. We draw attention to the risk of supporting investments for production systems that will cause the land concentration and exclusion of small producers. The FO also offer that initiatives of women in food processing, strongly emerging years be considered very carefully in supports investment which will be implemented within the framework of PRIA and the NIPA.
6. Deepening on the consideration the livestock in PRIA it and the NIPA. Greater attention must be given to this sector and its contribution to the security and sovereignty food and nutrition must be well appreciated. Certainly SIPP and the NIPA evokes transhumance security and accompanying measures, it is very important with regard to developments in the context of emphasis in support and support for the transformation and adaptation of traditional farming systems.
7. The issue of governance of PRIA and the NIPA. For the FO this essential question also deserves to be more explained.

Governance of PRIA takes into account the legitimacy of the process at all stages by a good participation of different groups of players and the mechanisms of financial management.

The FO felt that the process of dialogue, conciliation and inclusive approach that prevailed at the time of the development of ECOWAP/PDDAA must be preserved and strengthened. This must be a fundamental principle in the implementation. Unfortunately, they find that this approach which tended to become a culture in the ECOWAP/PDDAA process begins to undermine countries. Is this, because we are approaching the implementation with funding opportunities? Is - because the players have forgotten practices that helped give current legitimacy of ECOWAP/PDDAA, and the interests of the citizens of ECOWAS and the partners in development? The FO are convinced of the importance of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the actors, to clearly define the mechanisms and modalities of operation of dialogue, the key players in this dialogue, their mandates....

Like everyone, our involvement is at three fundamental levels:

- In decision making
- Putting implementing the NIPA and PRIA.
- Monitoring - evaluation - capitalization.

Certainly limits participation may fall low intrinsic capabilities of the OPPA, which is why there is a need to support the strengthening of their capabilities.

However, issues of participation are mainly due to the fact that some States create conditions necessary for a participatory and inclusive approach..

It is also necessary to specify in the framework of PRIA and of NIPA financial governance mechanisms for to provide or support services and resources will flow efficiently at the proposed beneficiaries, i.e. family and agricultural holdings and the FO.

8. On the general framework of PRIA and the NIPA

ECOWAS and States must take the necessary measures to ensure that improves the overall framework of ECOWAP to PDDA. ECOWAS has the image of the implementation of ECOWAP/PDDA, advance in all sectoral policies that contribute to the achievement of the objectives.

It is notably the issue of regional market development. It cannot develop productivity and production in a sustainable manner if farmers are unable to sell their production. In the current context of the sub-region, whenever with God help the farmers and agricultural producers produce extensively, it turns against them because they do s marketing all of their production or do non-remunerative prices.

Notwithstanding the efforts of ECOWAS, informal and administrative barriers to the free movement of goods and persons constitute serious harm to the development of the regional market of agricultural products and agri-food.

IV. The expectations of FO towards the States and the OIER

- ✓ Governments have a duty to identify and promote good conditions favoring the participation of all stakeholders without exclusive. They must recognize, accept and facilitate the creation of conditions for the participation of all actors networks acting on behalf of the OPPA and CSOs. This is just such a vision that will enable farmers and agricultural producers themselves more in the implementation process and are committed.
- ✓ Public administrations and ECOWAS should redouble its efforts to ensure the effective application of the legal provisions on the free movement of persons and goods, rights of residence and establishment and multiple administrative or informal barriers lifted braking cross-border trade in the ECOWAS area.
- ✓ We urge States to meet the commitments freely undertaken by heads of States African in Maputo, including to allocate, at least, 10% of the national financing of agriculture (including farming, fisheries and forestry) and to implement programs concerted with stakeholders to achieve at least 6% rate of agricultural growth equitably shared and whose profits will finance promotion of rural economy.
- ✓ FOs encourage ECOWAS and States to everything for that roadmap implementation of SIPP and NIPA will be defined as part of the business meeting is fully respected.

V. The expectations towards partners

- ✓ FO sincerely thank willingness to financial and technical partners and their commitment to support a process of participatory and inclusive implementation of ECOWAP/PDDA.
- ✓ They welcomed the establishment of a space of dialogue partners. The FO wish that this space is truly a tool that will ease harmonization of procedures and approaches to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of PRIA and the NIPA.

VI. Commitment of FOs and ROPPA

- ✓ The FO undertake to ensure the transformation of their systems of production with a view to achieving the objectives of ECOWAP/PDDA, including impairment 6 per cent for agricultural growth and food sovereignty.
- ✓ The FO and the ROPPA reiterated their commitment and their determination to mobilize, consult and engage in a dialogue with national and regional authorities and other groups of actors in the sub-region in the context of the implementation of PRIA and the NIPA and for the achievement of regional integration and placing wider implementation of all sectoral policies contributing to the economic and social development of the sub region.

- ✓ The FO will continue to use all legal means necessary to take into account the interests of family farms in economic policies, trade agreements and measures relating to regional integration

ROPPA as an actor under regional very sincerely thank ECOWAS, particularly the Department of agriculture, environment and water for driving process resources.

The leadership of ECOWAS should be strengthened, recognized and accepted by all the actors and partners in the implementation of PRIA and the NIPA.

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