



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



June 2024

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

04

Introduction

05

Key events in 2023

05

Main achievements

07

- Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of regional agricultural and food crises 07
- Sustainability and adaptability of the food system's production base 08
- Integration of regional food markets and trade 12
- Cross-functional aspects 13

Conclusions and outlook for 2024

14

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When we look back on the year 2023, we can be proud of the achievements of the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP). These results provide ample evidence of the determination of the West African sub-region and the Sahel to strengthen the resilience of many populations, who daily, face climate challenges and insecurity .

The year 2023 saw the entry in full speed of the FSRP in Ghana, Sierra Leone and Chad, in line with the FSRP philosophy of opening up to countries through separate phases. With its 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Chad), FSRP now targets more than 5 million direct beneficiaries.

Overall, 2023 was a year full of achievements in the phase 1 countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo) in a regional context marked by the coup in Niger, which put a brake on the implementation of the FSRP in this country.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all the countries that have done their utmost to ensure that the activities are carried out on the ground, with the constant support of the regional institutions ECOWAS, CILSS and CORAF.

We would like to express our gratitude to the World Bank for its financial support and, above all, its regular technical assistance, which has made a major contribution to achieving the expected results. We look forward to everyone's frank collaboration.

The commitment, self-sacrifice and hard work of everyone involved have enabled us to overcome many challenges and have been decisive in achieving the results presented in this report.

Mrs Massandjé Touré-Litsé
Commissioner for Economic
Affairs and Agriculture,
ECOWAS Commission



INTRODUCTION

The West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) was launched to combat food insecurity and strengthen the resilience of food systems in participating countries. It is being implemented in several phases through the following three (3) areas of intervention: (i) digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food crises; (ii) sustainability and adaptability of the productive base of the food system; (iii) integration and trade of regional food markets.

Officially launched on 15 June 2022, the FSRP is currently being implemented in seven (7) countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Togo, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Chad), with regional activities coordinated by three (3) regional organisations (ECOWAS, CILSS and CORAF), which are responsible for components 3, 1 and 2 of the programme respectively.

Geographic coverage

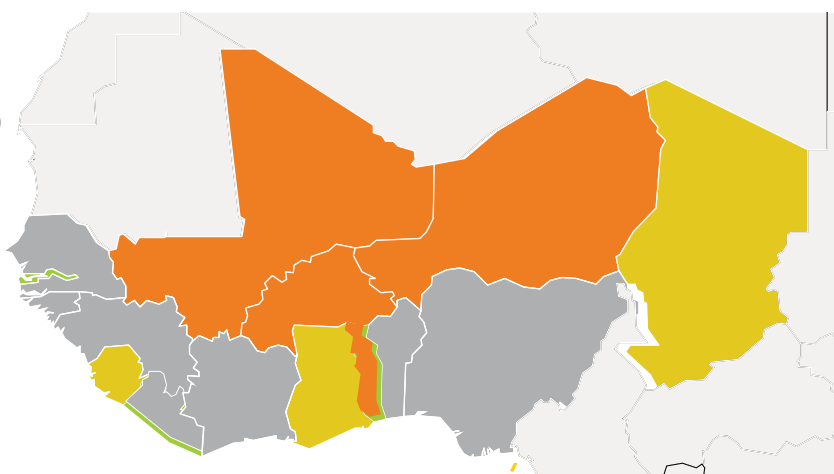
Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo (Phase 1)

Ghana, Sierra Leone, Chad (Phase 2)

Phase 1 :

- Start Date : January 2022
- End date: December 2026

■ FSRP Phase I
■ FSRP Phase II



Geographic coverage of the FSRP at 31 December 2023

For the countries in Phase 1 of the Programme (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo), 2023 was a year of effective implementation of activities in the field. This year was also marked by events which certainly influenced the implementation of the FSRP in the field and at regional level.

This report summarises the key FSRP achievements in 2023 in relation to digital services, agricultural productivity and regional trade, while also highlighting the cross-cutting aspects relating to gender, monitoring and evaluation, environmental and social safeguards including gender-based violence and communication.

KEY FACTS



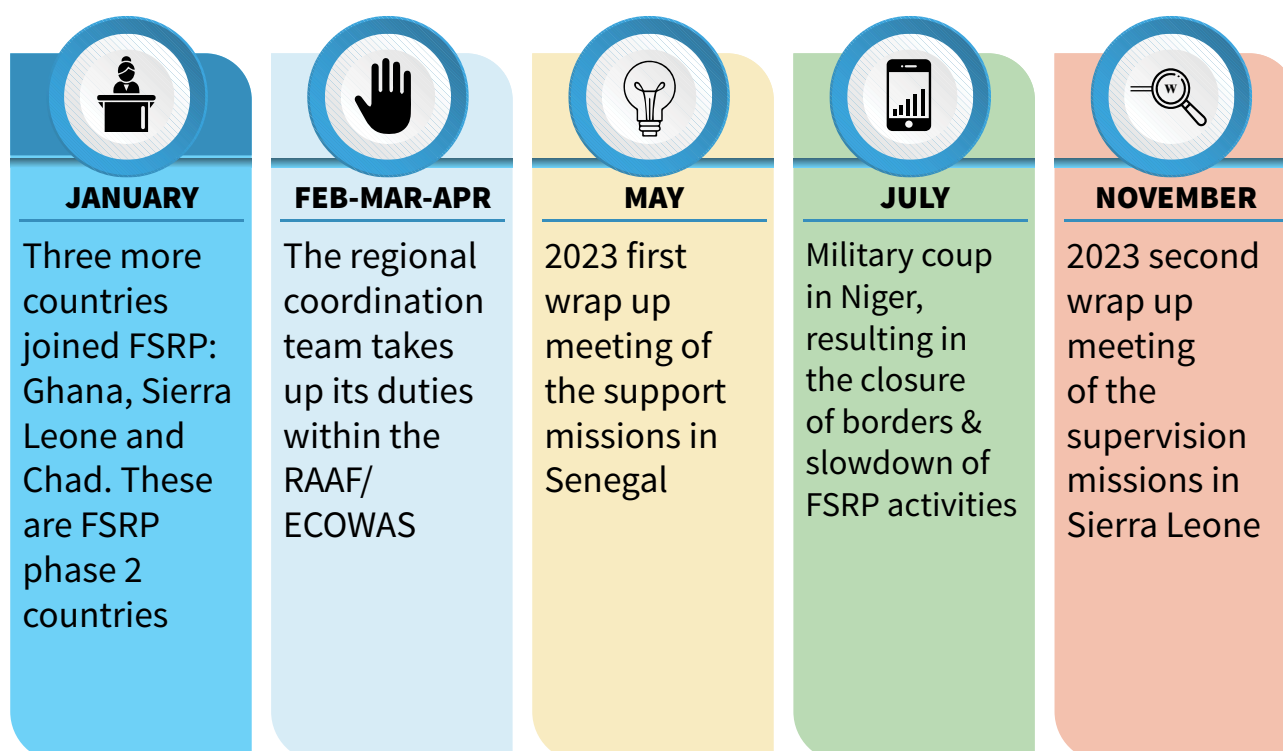
1 281 766

Producers, 37% of whom are women, have benefited from agricultural assets or services from the FSRP



Seed production training session in northern Togo

By the end of 2023, the implementation of the FSRP reached more than **1,281,766 direct beneficiaries, 37% of whom are women**. The year was marked by events and that had a positive or negative impact on the implementation of the PRSA during 2023, as shown in the diagram below:



MAIN

ACHIEVEMENTS

The key achievements of the FSRP in 2023 mainly concerned: (i) digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food crises; (ii) the sustainability and adaptability of the productive base of the food system and (iii) the integration and trade of regional food markets.



+ 654 000

Actors in the food system, 17% of whom are women, have had access to hydro and agrometeorological advisory services thanks to the

Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food crises

Under the coordination of the AGRHYMET/CILSS Regional Center, which is responsible for component 1 of the FSRP, several activities have been carried out. More than 654,000 food **system stakeholders**, 17% of whom are women, were granted access to hydro and agrometeorological advisory services, mainly in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo.

With the support of the AGRHYMET/CILSS Regional Center, **23 Hydromet** stations have been installed in several countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

In addition, several **capacity-building and coaching** sessions were organised on crop monitoring tools (SARAH-model) and climate data management and analysis (CLIDATA). These included



View of a weather station in Lomé

 **324**
BURKINA FASO

people trained in the food security system (SAP, SE-CNSA).

 **75**
MALI

members of Producers' Organisations and **75** local councillors trained in meteorological information and communication.

 **56**
NIGER

local early warning structures (14 OSVs and 43 SCAP-RUs) strengthened in the field (327 villages covered).

 **400**
TOGO

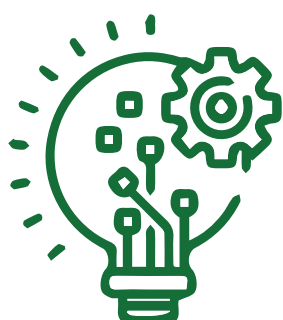
cooperative members trained in the Participatory and Integrated Climatological Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach at farm level and **50,000** agrometeorological, climatological and multi-hazard warning bulletins produced and distributed.

Sustainability and adaptability of the food system's production base

CORAF coordinates activities both at regional level and in the countries covered by this area of intervention. In 2023, **41 technologies** were disseminated, enabling more than **311,208 farmers**, of whom 36% were women, to adopt climate-smart agricultural technologies and services in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo and Sierra Leone. Overall, around **22,081 hectares** of land have been put at use using sustainable landscape management technologies.

In addition, **6 specialization** centers were evaluated in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. **120 technologies** were used for demonstrations in the setting up of technology parks in some centers of specialization in 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo).

120 gender- and nutrition-sensitive technologies were disseminated at the Market for Agricultural Innovations and Technologies (MITA) held in September 2023 in Ouagadougou.



41

Technologies made available to farmers by a consortium of national research institutes, the CGIAR and other international institutes



124 integrated landscape management (ILM) initiatives were mapped in 7 countries: Burkina Faso (24), Mali (26), Niger (23), Togo (6), Chad (28), Ghana (16) and Sierra Leone (1).

Improved millet technology at the Regional Centre of Specialisation on Dry Cereal in Senegal

Some support for soil restoration, seeds and mineral and organic fertilisers for producers in all countries

In Burkina Faso: the ploughing of **1,000** ha of lowlands for the benefit of **2,636** farmers, of whom 52,6% were women, and the provision of **9,000** tonnes of fertiliser under a co-financing mechanism for the benefit of **239,878** farmers, of whom 33,16% were women and 5% internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In Mali: **1,056** tonnes of seeds distributed to farmers in **75** communes in the regions of Koutiala, Ségou and Sikasso.

In Niger: **107** tonnes of improved seeds (maize, cowpea and millet) made available to **9,383** households, with 9% of them women; support for the production of community



More than 311,000 Producers, 30% of whom are women, have adopted climate-smart agricultural technologies and services

seeds (millet and cowpea) on **160 ha and 294 ha** of degraded land treated with anti-erosion works.

In Togo: **34,000** tonnes of NPK 15-15-15 fertiliser made available to farmers for the 2023-2024 crop year; 301 tonnes of certified seed (rice and soya) and **1,154** tonnes of fertiliser made available to farmers operating in targeted ZAAPs; **1,727** market garden kits comprising **87.4** tonnes of fertiliser, **682** kg of seed (tomatoes, peppers and onions) and **1,727** litres of biofertilisers, and market garden tools made available to market garden growers.



Delivery of agricultural equipment and inputs to farmers in Togo

PRODUCER TESTIMONIALS



Tilate Lankome,
rice farmer in Tandjouare, Togo

“Before, I used the old crops as seeds, but this time, with the improved seeds that FSRP has given me, my yield will increase. This will enable me to provide for my children, so that I can have a peaceful family environment. I can say that this support heralds a better future for me as a farmer”. Tilate Lankome, rice farmer in Tandjouare, Togo



Edwige Malidja,
food processing trainer in
Cinkassé

“Thanks to the FSRP, we learned how to process soya into enriched flour to make porridge, and how to make soya milk, soya cheese and tofu. We were also shown how to process orange-fleshed sweet potatoes into juice and fritters. The project also provided us with the tools we needed to process the food, which made our work a lot easier”.



Renignec Habiac,
market gardener in Mandouri,
Togo

“With the seeds and agricultural equipment received from FSRP, I have faith that I will double or quadruple my yield next year and increase my income. Before, we worked without hope because we didn’t have the right seeds or quality equipment. Thank you FSRP”.



Discussions at Sokodé market, Togo, between law enforcement officers, traders and agricultural market experts on trade facilitation mechanisms

Integration of regional food markets and trade

Activities in this area are coordinated by ECOWAS in support of countries and inter-professional food organisations. Despite a difficult sub-regional context due to the closure of certain borders, results have been achieved. A total of **76 private sector players** have received support to facilitate regional trade, mainly in Burkina Faso and Togo. In addition, more than **5,500 women farmers** (in Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo) have benefited from services to improve marketing in the programme's priority value chains.



ECOWAS has developed a harmonised guide for risk-based food safety inspection and decision-making in the ECOWAS and Sahel region to remove technical obstacles to the application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures at borders.

As part of the implementation of the ECOWAS Rice Observatory (ERO), national ERO chapters have been set up in Burkina Faso and Togo. Burkina Faso has finalised the establishment of its national ERO chapter.



Management team of the national section of the ECOWAS Rice Observatory

An assessment of six (6) regional food inter-professions was carried out with a view to strengthening their capacity to facilitate intra-regional trade.

Support for the Regional Food Security Reserve has enabled it to make progress, with prospects for improvement. Indeed, **2,622,850** vulnerable people can be cared for for a month in the region with the food stock available.

In Togo, **84** value chain players and experts have been trained in market access under the FTAA.

Emergency Response Component (CERC)

In **Sierra Leone**, as part of the financing mechanism for emergencies precipitated by natural disasters :

- **14,100** ha have been developed for rice production and **14,100** households have benefited;
- **114,823** pupils received nutritious food as part of the school feeding programme in 584 schools in 3 districts (Bonthe, Karene, Kenema);
- **12,000** households received unconditional cash support in the form of nutritional assistance.



Cross-cutting activities

Cross-cutting aspects include gender, monitoring and evaluation, communication and environmental and social protection, including gender-based violence (GBV).

With regard to **environmental and social safeguards, including gender-based violence**, country and regional specialists have harmonised the tools and mechanisms for monitoring field activities in line with the instruments developed at the start of the programme.

Complaints Mechanism Committees have been set up in each institution at regional and national level.

With regard to **gender mainstreaming**, 2023 was devoted to awareness-raising sessions for stakeholders and partners at both regional and country level. The National Coordinators of the FSRP, the Heads of the National Specialisation Centres, the Heads of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) and the experts involved in implementing the FSRP were given a better understanding of gender and of the mechanisms and tools to be used to ensure that gender is taken into account in FSRP activities. As far as the countries are concerned, awareness-raising sessions were held in Burkina Faso and Togo with a wide range of stakeholders and partners involved in the FSRP.



Training on gender mainstreaming for members of the Burkina Faso national coordination and key partners

The monitoring-evaluation and capitalisation component includes the development and validation of the programme's monitoring-evaluation regional manual and standard data collection tools for the indicators in the FSRP results framework. There is also capacity-building for country monitoring-evaluation specialists in the use of programme results monitoring and reporting tools. The capitalisation and learning system came into effect in 2023 with the online sharing of all important documents/reports via SharePoint at regional level and in the countries.

The **visibility of the FSRP** was at the heart of the programme's coordination activities with the development and validation of the communication/visibility strategy as well as the development of the FSRP's graphic charter with new visuals used in the countries and at regional level. The creation of a monthly newsletter and the animation of the social networks specific to FSRP contributed to reinforcing the visibility of the programme.

CONCLUSIONS

— AND OUTLOOK FOR 2024

Despite some teething problems for the countries and regional institutions in 2022, the overall progress of the programme was moderately satisfactory at the end of 2023.

Many critical external factors are having a negative impact on the achievement of the programme's ultimate objective, which is to prepare West African food systems against food insecurity and to improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries.

This is why 2024 is considered to be a pivotal year for the implementation of the FSRP for all components. Priority will be given to all activities at both regional and country level.



*Find out more
about the FSRP at :*

<https://fsrp.araa.org/>



Regional Coordination of
FSRP located at the
Regional Agency for Agriculture
and Food (RAAF)



ECOWAS: www.araa.org
CILSS/AGHRYMET: <https://agrhyet.cilss.int/>
CORAF: www.coraf.org