



GENERAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL FORUM ON AGROECOLOGY AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN WEST AFRICA

From October 21 to 24, 2024

Abuja, Nigéria

Final version



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB: Organic Agriculture

AE: Agroecology

CSA: Climate-Smart Agriculture

ASPF: Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral and Fisheries

AU: African Union

EU: European Union

3AO: Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa

AfDB: West African Development Bank

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

CILSS: Inter-State Committee for Drought Control

CORAF: West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development

FSC: Food Security Committee

ECOWAP: West African Regional Agricultural Policy

ECOWEP: West African Regional Environmental Policy

EF: Family Farm

AF: Adaptation Fund

GCF: Green Climate Fund

GEF: Global Environment Facility

HLPE: High-Level Panel of Experts

FO: Farmers' Organization

WAEMU: Economic and Monetary Union of West African States West

PAE: Agroecology Program

RAP: Resilient Agricultural Practices

ROPFA: Network of Farmer Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa

SAN: Food and Nutrition Security

WAfrONet: : West African Organic Network

WAICSA: West African Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture (Initiative ouest-africaine pour une agriculture intelligente face au climat)

I. INTRODUCTION

Despite growing recognition of AE, OA and CSA at various levels (national, regional and global) and the proliferation of existing and announced financial mechanisms (Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, WAICSA, Global Agroecology Fund, etc.), the financial flows actually allocated to family farms and local communities for scaling up the solutions provided by these three dynamics remain extremely low.

To reverse the current trend of limitations and weaknesses in this ASPH intensification model, local communities, Family Farms (EFs), and their farmers' organizations (POs/CSOs) have developed over the years alternatives for the ASPF intensification sector, through Resilient Agricultural Practices (RAP), based on the principles of AE (agroecology), OA (organic farming) and CSA (climate-smart agriculture). These RAP are increasingly validated by research institutions and public structures in charge of the development of the ASPF sector. Many solutions or techniques proposed by OA, AE and CSA have been consolidated with scientific knowledge. In order to reinforce this promotion and scaling up of AE, OA and CSA, the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO), the *West African Organic Network* (WAfrONet), propose to pool their strategies of action, efforts and resources. This translates into a commitment to jointly organize a regional forum of AE, OA and CSA in West Africa. This initiative is supported by ECOWAS (CSA projects, GCF *Readiness*, the PAE), ActionAid NGO from Nigeria and other development partners.

This forum is intended to be a multi-stakeholder framework for an in-depth analysis of the opportunities and challenges of financing AE, OA and CSA for food sovereignty in West Africa.

It took place from October 21 to 24, 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria, and brought together more than 357 participants from various sectors and networks of value chains, peasant organizations, public institutions, civil society organizations, researchers, policy-makers and private sector actors who deliberated for four (04) days on the future of agro-ecological agriculture and organic farming.

This report presents the proceedings of this forum and the strong recommendations from the debates.

II. THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORUM

2.1. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the special edition of the Regional Forum on Agroecology and Organic Agriculture in West Africa whose theme is Financing the transformation of sustainable food and nutrition systems for food sovereignty in West Africa through organic farming, agroecology and climate-smart agriculture: what policies, What mechanisms and instruments? was marked by a series of speeches including:



the first was delivered by Dr. Jude Obi, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee and President of the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN), who, after welcoming the forum, explained in a few words the special nature of this edition, the result of a united front representing the defenders of organic farming, promoted by the ECOWAS Commission. He was pleased to welcome all the participants and their various organizations in Abuja. According to the speaker, the theme of the forum is important because it highlights the challenges of agroecology and organic farming. Finally, he invited

participants to work together.



Following him, the Chairman of the West Africa Organic Agriculture Network (WAfrONet), Pr. Simplicie Davo Vodouhe, addressed his heartfelt thanks to those physically present and those online who are virtual. For the Professor, it is a major challenge that must be met, namely to feed Africa. It will therefore be necessary, he continued, to propose adequate financial mechanisms to provide concrete answers to this concern. He took the opportunity of the forum to make a brief history of the organization that he chairs. Before concluding his address, the speaker presented, in broad outline, the photograph of modern agriculture that generates

harmful consequences.



The National Director of ActionAid Nigeria, Mr. Andrew Mamedu, as well as previous speakers, after welcoming participants to the Forum and noting its importance at the regional level welcomed this opportunity not only to exchange ideas, but also to collectively shape the future of sustainable food systems. He also welcomed the presence alongside the ECOWAS Commission, the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO) and the West African Biological Network (WAfrONet) with a joint mission: Make the transformation of sustainable food and nutrition systems for food sovereignty in West Africa a reality. The theme, "Financing the

transformation of sustainable food and nutrition systems for food sovereignty in West Africa through organic agriculture and agroecology: what policies, mechanisms and instruments?", stresses the urgency of achieving this goal.



The representative of the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa, Mr. Moussa Sow, at the beginning of his speech highlighted the threats that chemicals pose to the land and that it was time to start thinking about how to cure the soil. called the skin of the earth. Like the local organizing committee, he welcomed each participant to this forum.

Mr. Sow continued his message by indicating that the debate on organic farming will be a central theme of our discussions during this forum, as well as climate change which has had a considerable impact on agriculture in recent decades. Insecurity exacerbates the problem. He therefore urged the African Union and West African states to support farmers who have lost their crops, homes and

livelihoods. In conclusion, the speaker thanked all partners who contributed to the funding of this forum and said that the results of this forum should be used to strengthen organic farming and sustainable agriculture. It recognized that this success can only be achieved collectively and through coherent policies.



The Representative of the Chairman of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Omar Aliou TOURAY, Mr. Alain Sy Traoré, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, began his speech by saying that thanked the Nigerian authorities for the warm welcome to all visiting delegations and for the facilities made available for the holding and success of this regional forum on agroecology and organic farming in West Africa.

He expressed his particular gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for his leadership and commitment to food security, nutrition and food sovereignty, as well as the eradication of hunger in our sub-region. He extended his thanks to the government and people of Nigeria.

This forum, according to the representative of the President of the Commission comes at an opportune time because of the vulnerability of our countries, due mainly to the triple impact of climate change, food insecurity and security crises linked to terrorism. ECOWAS therefore advocates the development of synergies, complementarities and coherence between national and regional policies and all initiatives taken by local, national and regional actors. The institution calls for synergy of actions with other institutions working in the same field. Before concluding, the Representative of the ECOWAS Commission spoke about the strategic importance of this forum and hoped that recommendations would be made to policy-makers and development partners to increase policies and strategies that take agroecology into account, Organic Agriculture and Smart Climate Agriculture and funding to scale them up, before wishing participants fruitful deliberations.



The last speaker was Alhadji. Tanimu Ibrahim, Director of Planning and Coordinator, representing the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA. At the beginning of his address to participants, he said it is a great honour and privilege to welcome the West African Forum on Agroecology and Organic Farming. The agroecological issue and organic farming is a priority issue in Nigeria. Addressing the theme “Financing the transformation of sustainable food and nutrition systems for food sovereignty in West Africa through organic agriculture and agroecology taking into account policies, mechanisms and instruments”, Mr. Tanimu Ibrahim reaffirmed

the commitment of the Government of Nigeria to improve people’s livelihoods, health and protect the environment. In addition, sustainable agricultural practices contribute to enhancing biodiversity, improving soil health and promoting ecosystem servicesi.

Before concluding, he encouraged participants to deepen critical areas in particular such as:

- i.** share innovative approaches to organic farming, conservation agriculture and integrated pest management.
- ii.** market access and value chains: explore strategies to connect farmers to markets, improve added value and boost trade, especially for exports;
- iii.** create policy and regulatory frameworks, including for inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) to support agroecological and organic farming practices as an alternative to conventional practices;

iv. implement strategies to significantly improve funding sources, their use and management through deliberate improvement of your structures, mobilization mechanisms and enhanced lobbying.

It was on the basis of these recommendations that he invited participants to reflect critically on their role in promoting and exploiting financing strategies for agroecology and organic farming in West Africa that support i) consumption local ii) regional and global trade benefiting from the ZLECA, iii) sharing of experiences, including on sustainable use of resources for soil improvement, weed control, pest control and disease control, iv) the protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and the environment. Before declaring the forum open, he officially welcomed all participants to Abuja, Nigeria and wished them a successful Forum.

Participants were then invited to take a family photo and visit the various stands installed on the forum site.

2.2. The Forum's work

The work of the forum was organized around four main axes, whose exploitation went through three (03) stages: (i) introductory papers that provided an overview of the theme and indications on critical areas in which reflection should be invested; (ii) panels that presented specific initiatives and/or analyses of certain actors in relation to the theme; and (iii) group work that allowed for in-depth reflection on issues and challenges related to the themes and to formulate recommendations and resolutions:

2.2.1. Introductory Communications

- ***Presentations of the Reports ActionAid, 3AO et Wafronet*** : the session was moderated by Mr OUEDRAOGO Karim. The three (03) presentations focused on consolidating actions to promote agroecology among stakeholders.

	Action Aid	WafrOnet	3AO
Report	• Effective agroecology practices with 25,800 small farmers and young women • Increase in the quantity and quality of public funding for agroecology • Diversified livelihoods through sustainable farming practices	• Organisation of a conference bringing together more than 200 people to exchange on different themes around organic agriculture and agroecology. 6 to 7 organizations with more than 3,000 members • Fund-raising for agroecology will also take place at this conference. Other countries are also encouraged to take guarantees to enable them to raise funds. • Knowledge products on organic farming will also be shared to	• Introduction of digital platforms to foster knowledge exchange and marketing • Dissemination of training modules in agroecology • Consolidation of 3AO shares • Organizational actions and discussions on agroecology • Dialogue on policy issues between regional partners • Collective action on ecological damage • 48 papers on agroecology research for stakeholders in Mali, Niger, Togo, Senegal and Ghana

		create links between stakeholders • Diplomatic ties have also been established between partners	• Strong membership in the Alliance, dynamic interaction between agro-ecological stakeholders to leverage food production to enable government involvement • Strengthening the dissemination of good practices in agroecology • Knowledge sharing among stakeholders
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➤ ***Communication on “alliance dynamics and training and learning mechanisms for AE, OA and CSA actors: issues, trajectories, challenges and perspectives” by Dr Mamadou Goita***

This communication recognizes that networking is essential for the success and development of agroecology (AE) and organic agriculture (OA) in the region.

The challenges of networking in the region are mainly how to change the trajectory of the food system that is being hijacked by different companies, hence the huge barriers to promoting EI and OA in the region and around the world. Various organizations and bodies involved in the EA and OA Network in the region include 3AO, WAfroNet, COPAGEN, COASP, ADEPA, NSS, AFSA/APSA, ASADAO, TAPSA and FAIR SAHEL, among others.

Main constraints include: low access to finance; low access to productive resources (water, land, energy); limited access to seeds; low market access; low political recognition of EA and OA (Much is said about it, yet little action is taken by governments); limited access to data (Data should not only be scientific evidence, but concrete facts essential to foster change and improve adoption and production); fragmentation of movements on AE and OA; land security issues. All these constraints call for and justify the formation of the network.

It is also important to work on actions that advance research, training and extension services: strengthening research capacities to increase results and promoting the dissemination of research results; Information, education and communication issues are an important part of the agenda; capacity building; women and youth involvement.

In terms of policies, four areas to focus on (i) policies to promote recognition of the importance of AE and OA at all levels; (ii) recognition of the need for AE and OA to create jobs; of wealth and be accessible to farmers, fishers and herders; iii) rights and well-being for all; iv) health issues.

➤ ***Online presentation by Christophe Lesueur of SupAgro Montpellier on MOOC and agroecology***

The interventions were both formal and informal. Work has been done with organizations, institutions, universities and administrative staff. These include:

- Training to strengthen organizational capacity to increase the number of farmers;
- Training and counselling support mechanisms for farmers;
- Human capital and combating land degradation;
- Current adverse environment and adaptation to sustainable local system that works.

The following issues of concern to stakeholders need to be addressed:

- Advisory services;
- protection of farmers' rights;
- balance between formal and informal mode of operation;
- full participation of all stakeholders including women;
- setting up a Platform where everyone can have access to training and seize opportunities, and training people to use the platform;
- Review of existing sections in agroecology and how the new platform will be implemented;
- alignment with local knowledge specificities;
- organization of agroecology models;
- access to vocational training;
- - organization of institutional case studies and design reports to be shared on the learning network;
- study on how agroecology can change the food system; and
- regulation of the state to operate it

As a result of **the communications, participants'** concerns relate to the following points:

- expand the network as a movement;
- to take strategies from the horizontal level only, that is between civil society organizations, at the vertical level (getting governments more involved with CSOs);
- ensure that the Land Use Act is reviewed to improve farmers' access to land;
- address land grab issues;
- involve more universities and institutions;
- Integrate youth and women and give them better access to land and resources;
- influence policies that favour women and youth;
- develop collaborations, synergies and complementarities; and
- highlight issues related to livestock and fisheries.

➤ ***Communication: Global Climate Finance Mechanism, Biodiversity, Food Nutrients and Food Security supporting AE, OA and CSA for Food Sovereignty: Issues, Opportunities, Challenges and Perspectives by Emile Frison.***

This communication emphasizes that financial institutions should be involved in facilitating and disbursing agricultural finance to provide strong support and manage market risks. Monitoring and evaluation must be put in place for greater credibility. This is related to the fact that major constraints include, but are not limited to, lack of adequate funding, lack of capacity of farmers' organizations to access funding agencies, Lack of knowledge about modern EI and OA practices and difficulties in accessing products such as agricultural inputs, etc.

The recommendations made by the communicator to national and supranational public bodies are:

- Promote a framework for action in favour of OA;
- Develop regional planning to accommodate more countries;
- Strengthen local and regional public agricultural development agencies;
- Encourage a participatory governance structure to implement available policies.

Following the presentation, participants' reactions were:

- Financing is a problem that requires serious action. Funding systems like banks are afraid to take risks.
- There is a need to reach out to farmers and organize them to obtain reference information on the criteria and what these funding agencies require.
- Farmers should be helped to maintain good practices to meet the requirements of funding agencies.
- Subsidies should also be offered to successful farmers.

➤ ***Communication: Financing mechanisms for the agroecological transition of AEs and OAs in ECOWAS space and sharing of the study on the financing of agroecology by Elise Juguet***

The Covid-19 pandemic and recent wars such as that between Ukraine and Russia have increased the threat to food security. This has also necessitated the expansion of agroecology (AE), as it contributes to mitigating global climate change and land degradation. Funding is needed to manage these problems of land degradation, the impacts of climate change, etc. In addition to grants, some countries are seeking loans from various sources to accelerate AE.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a key component of the historic Paris agreement, the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways. As an operational entity of the UNFCCC financial mechanism, the GCF has become a key part of the global climate finance architecture - Mobilizing \$10 billion during its first replenishment and investing in more than \$40 billion worth of transformative climate projects in over 100 countries, including several ECOWAS states. The GCF has eight focus areas (livelihoods, health agriculture and food security, ecosystem service and ecosystem services, built environment, clean energy and transportation, energy efficiency, forest and land use) covering Agroecology actions with six investment criteria. Countries submit proposals that meet the GCF requirements through accredited entities.

Response from the ECOWAS Director of Agriculture and Rural Development:

- Current funds are focused on conventional agricultural objectives.
- There are also integrated sectors that have their own funding which is conventional, but the interest goes beyond the two (02) agencies.
- Although agriculture is a priority, it cannot spend more than the budget line provided for, especially since it must also meet other needs included in state budgets despite the efforts and political will of governments. For example, the Maputo and Malabo declaration states that 10% of a country's budget should be devoted to agriculture. It is a sign of political will.
- But the question is whether this measure is implemented by the countries concerned.
- It should be noted that there is no obligation for countries to implement or not to implement these measures.

- And even if funds are released, they are often not directed directly to farmers. Instead, most of these funds are spent on building giant houses and buying cars rather than on agricultural investment.
- Do we understand agroecology? Remember that more than 75% of our family farms have been agroecological for over 10 years. This also creates a lot of confusion.
- We don't need to talk about agroecological transition in agriculture because we are already there.
- We should be more engaged in intensification and a more successful form of intensification.

Interactions with the public:

- Making agricultural financing a priority;
- How many funding opportunities are actually working effectively given the ineffective implementation of the Malabo declaration by governments so far.
- In concrete terms, who are the beneficiaries of agricultural subsidies?
- What is the time frame for accessing approved funds?
- Do we have supportive policies to develop and protect agroecology and are these policies providing adequate support?
- This is a call for countries to reassess, re-focus on EA and align with global best practices.
- These measures are necessary to preserve the land for future generations while maintaining a nature reserve.

There is also a need to properly manage climate funds in order to ensure their usability and profitability, as well as their rotation power to cover the region after the initial contribution

2.2.2. Panels

➤ ***Panel: Funding mechanisms at regional, national and local levels of AE, OA and CSA (climate, biodiversity, food security and nutrition, etc.) for food sovereignty: issues, opportunities, challenges and perspectives, facilitated by Dr Cheick Omar***

Speakers: Ministry of Finance of Nigeria, IFAD, AfDB, CIRAD, Ministries of Agriculture of Benin, Nigeria and Senegal, Judas (online presenter), FFORA, Banque Agricole Sénégal.

Some of the challenges to be taken into account as drivers of agroecology were discussed, ranging from :

- Reduction of carbon emissions
- Agro-ecological transformation
- Involve more financial institutions in financing.
- Conduct a number of research
- Need to strengthen stakeholder network
- Growth of private sector involvement in agroecology
- Review regional funding. Some funding is against agroecology.
- Overlap of financial institutions in financing transformation.
- Property valuation risk.
- Low participation of farmers in policy development

Note also that:

- IFAD has been an advocate of agroecology since its inception. IFAD ensures that 60% of its funds are devoted to agricultural practices.
- There are funds from the Global Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Biodiversity Fund, the private sector to integrate programs in countries.
- Governments are working hard but need to do more.
- There are domestic funds set up by the States that are dedicated to financing adaptation and especially agricultural resilience.

Commitment of \$100 million per year pledged by developed countries for climate action in developing countries after COP 21, most West African countries have already mobilized at least some resources from the Green Fund for climate and adaptation funds but the issue remains the reallocation of its resources to more action on CSA and Agroecology

Recommendations :

- There is a need to lobby decision-makers for more allocation of resources to the CSA, agroecology in the design of projects to be submitted to financial and climate mechanisms and others;
- Encourage regional authorities to carry out a regional study on agroecology in West Africa.
- It is very important to establish and/or strengthen partnership with the private sector on the issue of agroecology and CSA.
- Need for a holistic commitment to agroecology
- Reduce dependence on foreign donors and strengthen local funding strategies.

Encourage and support banks to set up special programmes and lines of credit specific to agroecology/CSA in order to provide credit adapted to all actors, especially women

➤ ***Panel: Resilient farming practices – Sustainable and inclusive use and management of agricultural and pastoral lands to prevent conflict between resource users.***

Speakers : COFENABVI, CNCR, CILSS, CIKOD – Ghana et FNGN

First presentation by Mr. Ouedraogo Rasoiane – Executive Secretary, COFENABVI

He began by saying that low production and lack of grassland in many places are two of the weaknesses of the beef industry. Two initiatives led by two groups in Burkina Faso and Niger attempt to solve problems related to the beef sector.

In Burkina Faso, for example, measures have been taken to increase livestock productivity and reduce tensions between herders and farmers. Donkeys of a new species are raised on farms. Biodigestors were used to produce high-quality food by recovering plant remains, such as corn stalks, which are discarded after harvest and mixed with additional additives, such as salt.

Second presentation by Ms. Issa – CNCR, Senegal

Sustainable management of pastures/grasses, involvement of policy-makers (advocacy), promotion of pasture/grass management, composting and biodiversity are the main areas of focus for CNCR. The micro-irrigation system is one of their main focus areas and water management strategies, which allows smallholder farmers to access water for crops and livestock. In addition, sustainable farming practices are taken into account.

Through training and mediation in agroecology, the CNCR organizes sustainable production at the family level for advocacy. In order to contribute to the sustainability of food and feed production, all actors and stakeholders are also involved. She concluded by saying that because women are at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of everything, they play an important role in conflict management.

Third presentation by Dr. Maguette Kaire – CILSS

Dr Maguette says that ECOWAS has developed the best methods of agroecology and that CILSS is there to extend the programs that have been implemented. In order to manage livestock in the face of violence, ECOWAS has established livestock and pastoralist regions. In addition, mobile rearing systems were observed. They have created a system that maps the weekly mobile grazing livestock. As a result, member countries are now exploring ways to reduce problems with weekly grazing.

Fourth presentation by Mr. Kafui Mensan – CIKOD, Ghana

According to Mr. Mensan, livestock farmers from countries such as Niger and Mali have been travelling to Ghana for decades in search of pastures for their cattle. The country is generally peaceful and there are livestock markets, which requires a large influx of shepherds. However, conflicts over water and land use have made these trends extremely problematic in many parts of Ghana. Due to the abundance of pastures and the large number of pastoralists, they now let their animals graze in the fields of farmers, which destroys crops. Ghana has an agency to manage these conflicts in order to solve this problem. A conflict within the community in 2018 led to the expulsion of all herders, resulting in the loss of people, animals and property. Legislation to address these problems has now been proposed by government and the community. The agreement reached at national level, which is accessible under the auspices of the customary court, has not been recognized by the ECOWAS convention on the movement of animals. Conflicts between farmers and ranchers will be mitigated and resolved once these laws are harmonized.

Fifth presentation by Ms. Kendo Bibiata – FNGN, Burkina Faso

By digging tiny trenches and holes to reduce erosion, runoff and water conservation systems, the FNGN rehabilitates degraded pastures in order to end these conflicts. Because of the extent of the damage, it has developed techniques for reforestation of degraded areas by sowing seeds in tiny holes, which will promote vegetation cover in about four years. To improve the initial growth of millet and plant seeds from a resistant, area-adapted tree, another method is to dig 20 cm diameter holes and plant compost and millet grains. The successful implantation of both plants will be promoted by intercropping millet seeds and trees with compost. Another method is to dig semi-circular holes for the seeds to be planted in order to create a water-saving structure that decreases the evaporation rate and maintains the growth of the plants sown.

Due to the lack of land for animal grazing, these methods have been used to restore many damaged pastures, making these areas attractive again and reducing the frequency of conflicts. To ensure that everyone is involved in the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to conflicts, discussions are underway

on how to maintain existing grasslands and pastures through knowledge sharing, information sharing and exchange of ideas.

Recommendations

- Participate in an inclusive way in the decision-making on the management of the few resources available and in the resolution of conflicts of interest and all actors or stakeholders must work towards this.
- Settle conflicts at the village or community level as they are the best places.
- Identify pasture routes accurately and involve village/community leaders and all relevant parties.
- Use tree branches and coloring markers to help the shepherds follow the defined boundaries.
- Respect the corridors established by ECOWAS for transhumance in order to discourage movement on illicit routes.
- Encourage communities to conduct research on local seed breeding and propagation methods to create pastures in transit areas.
- Respect the laws that govern communities in which foreign breeders live; this is an obligation for them.

Panel: Exploitation and management of forestry and fisheries resources for sustainability, increasing farmers' incomes and food sovereignty

Speakers : Abdoulaye SAMBA FENAJIE (Pêche, Sénégal) and Amadou Mouktar Sala BA (Fédération des Producteurs d'Arbres Fruitiers du Fouta Jalon, Guinée)

1. 1. Positions and major advances of different stakeholder groups:

Forestry:	Fisheries (FENAGIE):
• Mobilization of various actors to restore vegetation and combat desertification in the Fouta Djalon. • Development of forestry projects, especially for coffee and banana cultivation, supported by the training of nursery workers. • Integration of agroforestry practices, such as the use of leaves as organic matter and promotion of rainwater infiltration. • Development of fish farming and recycling of fish waste for agriculture. • Implementation of national reforestation policies to address climate change.	• Declining fish stocks due to overfishing and climate change. • Initiatives to reduce fishing effort and establish biological rest periods. • Mangrove reforestation, oyster farming and beekeeping projects. • Creation of artificial reefs to promote fish reproduction.

Recommendations

- • Senegal should grant concessions to small-scale fishermen for sustainable resource management.
- • Need for sustainable financing mechanisms, such as taxes on exported products.
- • Integration of forestry and fisheries into policy revisions.
- • Strengthen existing frameworks for land tenure, agroecology, etc.
- • Promotion of integrated initiatives combining fishing, reforestation and other activities.
- • Advocacy for government support to artisanal fishermen.
- • Community-based approaches are essential to successful management of natural resources.
- • Support to policy makers and development partners in providing adequate resources to peasant populations to promote sustainable practices.

Panel: The role of youth and women in promoting AE, OA and CSA: what strategies and supportive approaches

Panel 5's mission was to examine the role of youth and women in agroecology, organic farming and climate-smart agriculture. Some thirty participants actually took part in the discussions of this session which was moderated by Prof. Karamoko DIARRA from Senegal supported by Oluwakemi IREKHORE from Nigeria and Laurent QUENUM from Inter-réseaux for restitution.

Rules	Challenges
• The roles of women and youth are closely related and cannot be clearly defined. • These two groups play a role in all aspects of the agroecology, organic farming and climate-smart agriculture value chain. These areas include: - Land clearing - Tillage - Planting and cultivation - Harvest - Post-harvest technologies (processing, upgrading and packaging) - Marketing - Input production and sales - Information dissemination and advocacy	• Low access to information and capacity building • Lack of land ownership and poor access to land • Difficult access to credit: strict lending procedures, collateral requirements, etc. • Low market access: remote market, low market information. • Limited access to technology • Limited access to means of influencing policies • African culture that prevents women and youth from expressing themselves and realizing their potential • The use of old, arduous and laborious production methods makes work tedious for women and unattractive to young people. • Low level of youth interest and participation in AE, AB and AIC • Inadequate infrastructure and poor operating environment • Limited access to inputs • Westernization of youth • Ensure that the quick attitude of youth discourages them from participating in AE and AB

Recommendations

- Fill the gap by offering youth entrepreneurship training, apprenticeship and incubation programs on OA and AE.
- Introducing a short cycle production system will attract more young people;
- Deploying technological advances in AE and OA practices will improve the output of women and youth.
- Provide infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, solar power and agricultural equipment by governments.
- Change the architecture of AE and OA to make them more attractive for women and youth.
- Maximize the potential of Africa's large youth population.
- Provide opportunities for women and youth to express themselves and be relevant.
- Create networks of youth and women in AE and OA for shared learning experiences.
- Engage youth in AE and OA documentation and digitization.
- Presenting success stories, potential for money creation and investment opportunities in AE and OA will encourage more interest and participation.
- Improve access to land.
- Include AE and OA in school curricula.
- Introducing digital agriculture as a tertiary level course will increase youth participation.
- Facilitate the manufacture of simple agricultural tools (portable and motorized) by the government to reduce labour strain.

Panel: Agroecological and organic inputs (fertilizers, pesticides), what collaborations, what support for greater production, higher quality and better market access

Speakers : FERME SCOLAIRE SAIN, BIOPROTECT, CNABIO, ENDA and CIRAD

First presentation by Mr. Arsène Savadogo – CEO, Bioprotect

He began by saying that the challenges of soil fertility are high because of the amount of chemical fertilizers used in agriculture. Helping farmers develop alternatives that will increase productivity led to the creation of this company. The company is a production and marketing unit for organic inputs (biopesticides and organic amendments) based on local natural resources. They process and market raw materials and provide technical assistance to those wishing to engage in ecological/organic production. They produce micro-organisms that farmers add to compost to improve decomposition. Microorganisms protect plants from disease and improve soil health. He advocated educating producers on the health benefits of organic crop production. He suggested that all conventional products entering a country contain a lot of pesticides and should therefore be submitted and approved by the regulatory bodies in that country. It coordinates a multi-stakeholder consortium (INERA, IRD, ARFA, etc.). bioprotect is supported by Sinergi Burkina through private capital.

Second presentation by Kabore Canime Gareppo (CNABIO)

He spoke about all the organic products and said that the National Council of Organic Agriculture was created to respond to the challenges faced by the Burkinabé. He indicated that there is a need for a framework for organizing, engaging, and developing action plans for healthy agriculture advocates (a framework that would allow them to strengthen each other and make their voices heard). These strategies put forward today must be validated by the approval of the many actors present at this forum to accelerate their adoption. The National Organic Agriculture Council was created to respond to the challenges facing the Burkinabè.

Third presentation of ENDA

He stated that Action for Developing the Environment in the Third World is an international non-profit organization founded in 1980 and based in Dakar, Senegal. The organization was created because of damage to their horticultural products, aggravated by the application of chemicals. She worked more with women because they were looking forward to the results. Policies are in place to help farmers with incentives for bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, but there is a lack of structure for producers to sell their products. They observed that agro-ecology is the first step in damage control, and producers need to be aware of the types of pests/diseases that are attacking their farms in order to seek appropriate treatments. In addition, effective agricultural practices are implemented at the local level, which limits the capacity of actors to develop. Government has introduced subsidies, but external competition prevents local practitioners from accessing them.

Fourth presentation by Mr. Eric Scopel (CIRAD, France)

According to the presenter, the organization is working with its partners to build knowledge, solutions and invent resilient agricultural systems for a more sustainable and inclusive world. It mobilizes science,

innovation and training to achieve the sustainable development goals. It supports all stakeholders, from producers to policy-makers, to promote the production of biodiversity, the agroecological transition, the sustainability of food systems, sustainable development of rural territories and their resilience to climate change. Suggested integration of organic manure and other good agro-ecological practices to reduce costs, improve farmers' efficiency in weed control as well as choosing improved varieties/species.

Fifth presentation of Gbewoo Pascal (Ferme scolaire SAIN)

According to the presenter, his family did not support his decision to start organic and agro-ecological farming at the age of thirty. It started by producing non-synthetic fertilizers and added value through recycling and integrated agriculture. It was difficult at first, but he persevered, knowing that the future was bright. Its biggest challenge is to evolve innovation because people are not interested in joining it. Today, his company has grown to train young people and produce three types of fertilizer, which are being certified.

Recommendations

- Train and encourage farmers to produce their own organic inputs.
- Through collaborations, researchers and agro-ecological institutions can train people who will teach local farmers how much/how much bio-inputs are needed to feed the crops rather than kill them.
- Establishment by ECOWAS of a plan to phase out HHPS in the region that will inform research and encourage investment in the region. This will also encourage large companies to invest in these safe alternatives.
- Economically strengthen the region and its members by reducing food and input imports (we cannot continue to import more than 50% of food and agricultural inputs).
- Provide incentives and guidance against investments and policies that compromise our soils, water and make farmers dependent on external inputs.
- Establishment by ECOWAS and its members of a special agroecology fund to provide incentives for production and research as well as funds to improve organic inputs.
- Host a conference to identify barriers to production, scaling up and partnering for organic inputs.
- Encourage organic funding programs to allocate 50% of the production and supply of organic inputs to farms.
- Provide incentives, tax breaks and subsidies to organic and agroecological farmers.
- Collaborate and encourage ECOWAS partnership with biofertilizer companies to increase yield, significantly reduce production costs, improve sustainable food security with agro-based solutions perfect that are tested, proven and approved organic inputs.

Panel: AE-OA and issues related to critical issues of the ASPF sector (Sustainable management of natural/terrestrial resources and biodiversity – gender/inclusion – SPG-digitization)

Speakers : Heinrich-Boll-Stiftung and ActionAid, Mamadou Sissoko, Chariton Namuwoza

Effect of hazardous pesticides in West Africa	Dynamics of the evolution of agricultural and pastoral lands, forest spaces and fishery resources: issues and challenges
- Pesticides and herbicides are a major danger to human health and are recognized as the cause of cancer. - Data show significant food poisoning due to chemical preservatives used on cereals and	- Low production and earnings - Lack of certification - Poor quality packaging - Low added value - Lack of market - Low consumer awareness

vegetables, as well as the use of pesticides and herbicides. - Most food products exported to Europe and the Americas are rejected due to their high levels of toxic chemicals resulting from post-harvest processing during production.	- In general, only large farmers have access to subsidies.
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Recommendations

- Implement policies that place Africa at the centre of its own development.
- Breeding animals easily adapted to the African environment.
- Focus more on biofertilizer production.
- Facilitate farmers' access to public funding and all other sources of financing.
- Facilitate women's access to land and other relevant productive resources.

2.2.3. Group work

Theme: Strategy development and anchoring between different institutions and funding mechanisms

Serial No	Funding Bodies	Charting	Access to funds strategies	Synergy between funding and implementation agencies
1	Loss and damage fund	Worldwide	Develop a clear program of agroecology	Invitation of funding agencies to regional meetings
2	Ecological fund	Worldwide	Invitation of funding agencies to participate in regional meetings/events	Attend meetings and events where organizations meet.
3	European Union	Worldwide	Share with them the communiqué/outcome of each forum meeting	Partnering with funding agencies to carry out agroecological projects
4	Global Environment Facility	Worldwide	Conduct research to find out what funds are available for agroecology within each funding agency	Provide the necessary information and statistics that will assist funding agencies and government.
5	African development bank	Continental	Making agroecology research public and accessible	Help funding agencies understand how agroecology can solve many issues related to food sustainability, food security, health and conservation.
6	IFAD	Worldwide	Intend to attend an internal meeting to discuss the importance of agroecology	
7	Green Environment Centre	Nigeria	Create the opportunity to partner with different funding agencies to develop and implement projects/activities.	
8	Work bank	Worldwide	Profile of research direction and current funding plan of these funding agencies	
9	FAO	Worldwide	Have a single voice as an	

			ECOWAS region/country	
10	Adaptation Fund	Worldwide	Development of a concept note adapted to agroecology in accordance with their priority	
11	Rural development agency	Nigeria	Provide verifiable statistics of activities already carried out to support requests.	
12	FADAMA	Nigeria	Identify people who can speak on our behalf in the various offices where funding for agroecology is planned/budgeted.	
13	International Commission of Japan	Worldwide	Create an agricultural cooperative to attract funds.	
14	Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Worldwide	Develop projects that take into account the priorities of agroecology and CSA in accordance with the six investment criteria of the Fund.	
15	NEW CARD	Nigeria	Involvement/mobilization of women and youth to seek funding for agroecology.	
16	Aide Suisse	Worldwide	Help farmers have a full understanding of agroecology for feedback.	
17	German cooperation (Giz)	Worldwide	Create/provide a knowledge centre for agroecology information	
18	ActionAid		Conduct research and create businesses around agroecology to show how we can solve problems that are of interest to donors.	
19	North Korea		Agroecology must have a holistic narrative that can be used as a selling point to attract funds/funding agencies	
20	Spark		Increasing the integration of livestock in agroecology to attract more attention.	
21	Solidarity	Afrique du Sud	Create internal and external networks within these funding agencies	
22	NCF	Nigeria	Promote agroecology from a health perspective.	
23	Global community fund	Worldwide	Increase advocacy for agroecology in all agricultural forums at the state, regional, national and international levels.	
24	Carbon credit	Worldwide	Involve the media to help amplify the voice and activities	

			already carried out around agroecology.	
25	DFS	France	Hold our heads of state accountable for the agreements and bilateral declarations signed around agroecology at regional level.	
26	University of Information Technology	Worldwide	Use a bottom-up approach combined with a top-down approach to create funds from within at the state, regional, national and international levels.	
			Understand how each state/country works in order to know how to approach the government on agroecology.	
			We must push for a public-private partnership to strengthen sustainability in terms of additional funding and support.	
			Evidence of ability to use funds for agroecology to improve solvency.	

Access to funds strategies	Synergy between funding and implementation agencies
- Develop a clear agenda for agroecology; - invite funding agencies to participate in regional meetings and events; - share with them the results of each forum meeting; conduct research to determine what funds are available for agroecology within each funding agency - make agroecology research publicly available; - participate intentionally in internal meetings to discuss the importance of agroecology; - write the research direction, interests and current funding plan of these funding agencies; - have a single voice as an ECOWAS region	- invite funding agencies to regional meetings; attend meetings and events where organizations meet; - provide the data and statistics needed to assist funding agencies and government; - and help funding agencies understand how agroecology can address many issues related to food security, sustainability, health and conservation.

Theme: Improve the access of PO and CSO networks to different financing mechanisms (climate, biodiversity, food and nutrition security, etc..)

Major progress on the situation

- Many international funding funds, little known and controlled by CSO/POs, often managed by departments
- Strategies, policies, regulatory frameworks for climate, AE, etc. but changing and unstable, many of which are linked to governments (elections, governance, etc.)
- Civil society and political parties are not structured and mature at the same level in different countries.
- Level of dialogue with governments very fluctuating and sporadic
- The existence of multi-stakeholder concertation frameworks in some countries improves access to these funds for PO/OSC.

Challenges for PO/CSO access to funding

- Access to information on the existence and operation of these funds is limited, especially among CSOs and farmers.
- Ability and competence of the PO/CSO to be able to conduct a process of application and access to these funds (cumbersome and complex procedures)
- Size of projects and consortia requested: difficulty in setting up multi-stakeholder projects (lack of synergy in the search for financing between POs/CSOs) at national and regional levels.
- Delay in setting up the project and disconnection with the evolving issues of agriculture and livestock
- Dilution of financing between climate-smart agriculture, agroecology, organic farming, etc. And lack of inclusion of livestock, pastoralism and fishing
- Perception of agroecology as a response to challenges in the agricultural sector

Actions, measures for CSO/POs

- Development of own financing mechanisms (mutual solidarity, etc.) for the territory
- Strengthen synergies between actors with functional platforms: trust rather than competition
- At national level between PO/CSO and ALSO with governments/TFP
- Sub-regional
- Capitalize to improve advocacy at national and sub-regional levels
- Develop a direct dialogue with the TFP to indicate funding priorities

Actions, measures expected from policies

- • Comply with the recommendations made in Maputo to allocate 10% of the minimum state budget to agriculture
- • Increase funding from the state budget for agroecology compared to conventional agriculture
- • Provide insurance/guarantees to enable farmers to access loans at reasonable rates from financial institutions
- • Alignment of strategies and policies at the national level = intersectoral dialogue needed when funds and competencies are shared between different ministries (environment, agriculture etc.) and at regional level.

Recommendations

1. Roles of networks (ROPPE, WAFRONET, 3AO, etc.)

- Provide information on funds and how they are used to its members
- Training, support and accompaniment of the members/national platforms in the setting up/monitoring of projects, understanding of procedures, etc.

- iii. Strengthening members and national platforms on governance, structuring, etc.
- iv. Structuring and strengthening advocacy with states and ECOWAS

2. Role of ECOWAS/ARAA

- i. Specific funding mechanism within ECOWAS for member countries' POs/CSOs (private sector funds and tax measures), co-managed and co-monitored with sub-regional networks, with real inclusion of women, youth and the entire agricultural sector
- ii. Support States in the implementation of agroecological policy by promoting intersectoral

Theme: Participatory Guarantee Systems (SGP), regional trade prospects and standardization

Question 1: What are the action plans for GSP harmonization in West Africa?	Question 2: Which organization should lead the harmonization process and what specific roles should they play?
- SGP is essential for trade. - Foreign certification such as the EU's ECOCERT was very costly and required a harmonized GSP across the region. - There is a need to harmonize standards and GSP at the regional level. - Each country should at least harmonize its standards and GSP before presenting them to the region. - The GSP harmonization plan for the ECOWAS region was first agreed in Accra, Ghana in 2018. - By June 2024, at a technical meeting in Abuja, Nigeria. A draft document has been prepared and submitted to ECOWAS for review and validation. - The committee is still awaiting feedback from ECOWAS. - The Gambia, like some other ECOWAS countries, does not have a GSP. - There is a need to assist countries that do not have GSP to establish their standards and GSP. - The SGP is local and unique to each country. - Hence the reason for harmonization. - The SPG is only for OA. - AE is more like the home in which OA, permaculture and other forms of climate-smart agriculture exist. - Therefore, those who are to be involved in the SPG will need 2 years of conversion process. - The next step is to receive the document reviewed and validated by ECOWAS before engaging stakeholders for final validation and implementation. - The ECOWAS-approved standard will serve as a guideline and standard throughout the region, therefore member states are required to comply with it.	- WAfroNET and 3AO should coordinate GSP harmonization across the region. - It is also important to have an ad hoc committee to steer the process. - GSP should be independent in each country but harmonized across the region.
PLAN OF ACTION - It is normal that only a few available countries are involved in the process. - There is an urgent need to act on the draft document submitted to ECOWAS. - It is necessary to identify and appoint contact persons (at least 2) in each country for GSP exchanges.	

- All SPG actors must be identified.
- Have a harmonized definition of all terms related to AE and OA.
- The need to establish a focal point in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Update the project validated by ECOWAS.
- Advocacy for SPG must be strengthened to the benefit of open access actors.
- AGRECOL AFRICA Senegal has funding to support the implementation of SPG in the region.

Theme: Presentation of the current action research initiative (Agricord/UE): achievements, challenges, perspectives.

Initiatives/research projects identified	Challenges identified	Proposed solutions
• FORI: This is the rice and vegetable sector in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Sponsored by ROPPA • GAFS: Involved in the cereal sector in Mali and Senegal. Also sponsored by ROPPA. • SUSTAIN SAHEL: Involved in agroforestry and technical innovation in agroecology. Ongoing in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal • FAIRs Sahel: Involved in Action Research on technical and technological innovations in agroecological intensification Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal • Ecological and Organic Agriculture Initiative: Participation in research-training on the production of organic fertilizers and bio-restorers. In 9 African countries. • Other interventions were carried out in the following areas: • Support for seed safety of vegetable growers by the CNOP in Mali • Action research project, compost pit, transformation of domestic manure produced in Togo.	• Insufficient funding. • Dependence on foreign donors • Projects are rarely led by farmers themselves but by academic researchers. • Women and youth lack access to land. • Complex processes of access to resources for private research by farmers.	• Contribute to the development of farmers' research capacity • Need for more Indigenous funders • Real farmers need to get involved in research. • Inclusion of all genders and even people with disabilities to the extent of their abilities in research programs. • Encourage the creation of cooperatives among farmers for research purposes.

Prospects

- Organic farmers must involve local farmers in research.
- Funding of initiatives and projects should shift from reliance on foreign donors to reliance on local sponsors.

Theme: Improvements (orientations, measures and instruments, etc.) of public policies at regional level (ECOWAP, PAU) and national level to ensure a better consideration of the AE, OA and CSA for food sovereignty

Challenges	Recommendations
• Lack of funding data and harmonisation at ECOWAS level, indicating the need to improve data collection and standardisation in ECOWAS member states.	Political and Institutional frameworks: • Develop inclusive policies: Create policies that involve all stakeholders, including women, youth and marginalized groups. • Strengthen regional cooperation: Strengthen collaboration among ECOWAS member states to promote EA, OA and CSA. • Establish platforms for dialogue: Create platforms for regular discussions and exchange of knowledge among stakeholders.

• Limited progress on regional initiatives: The lack of progress in implementing regional initiatives highlights the need for stronger coordination and support. • Focus on AE at the national level: The focus on EA at the national level suggests a need for greater emphasis on regional collaboration and integration.	Knowledge and capacity building: • Data collection: AE data collection, stakeholder mapping and agricultural best practices to inform decision making. • Knowledge management: Promote knowledge sharing and capacity building among farmers, researchers and policy-makers. • Advocacy: Raise awareness of the benefits of EA, OA and CSA and advocate for supportive policies. Financial support: • Funding: Ensure adequate funding for AE, OA and CSA initiatives from a variety of sources including ECOWAS, national governments and international organizations. • Financial mechanisms: Develop innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable agricultural practices. Market development: • Product certification: Implementation of EA and OA certification systems to improve market access. • Value chain development: Support the development of value chains for organic and agro-ecological products. Community engagement: • Farmer engagement: Organize events to showcase EI products and value chains and encourage farmer participation. • Address land tenure issues, women's empowerment and health organizations' priorities to create an enabling environment for AE, OA and CSA. Action points: • Data collection: Collecting data on organic farming, stakeholder mapping and best agricultural practices is essential for informed decision making. • Knowledge Management: Promoting knowledge management and sharing among stakeholders is essential to the effective implementation of AE, OA and CSA. • Advocacy: Advocacy for AE and the environment, with support from ECOWAS, can help create a supportive political environment. • Registration and certification: AE product registration and AE practice certification can improve market access and recognition. • Funding: Ensuring adequate funding for EA, OA and AIC initiatives is critical. • Capacity building: Investing in the capacity building of farmers, researchers and policy makers is essential for successful implementation. • Institutional platforms: Establishing regular dialogue and knowledge exchange platforms can facilitate collaboration and progress. • Farmer engagement: Organizing events to showcase EI products and value chains can increase awareness and promote adoption. • Solving land issues: Addressing land tenure issues, women's empowerment and health organizations' priorities for sustainable agriculture is critical.
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Theme: Reflection on the possible roles and actions of POs and CSO networks to contribute to a more effective implementation of national and regional PMPs supporting AE, OA and CSA

Roles	Point of Action
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✓ Facilitate the connection of networks with the different instances of the base; ○ Support CSO capacity building and promote “Doing-Doing” (not be in front of CSOs) ; ✓ Strengthen the capacity of network members to better understand and grasp public policies: ○ Enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation; ○ Awareness and information of actors on the ground; ○ Work on advocacy content (policy coherence) due to inconsistency between practice and policy ○ Provide the means to evaluate agricultural policies; ○ Strengthen capacities for evaluation and participation in its policies; ○ Capitalize on experiences and disseminate them in the ECOWAS space; ✓ Engage and federate stakeholders around a advocacy theme and build their AE capacity ✓ Take into account other actors and sectors of activity (Farmers-Fishermen) in actions to promote AE; ✓ Have a consultant position (be and be consulted by a third party) ○ Know the concerns of its members at the grassroots level; ○ Have up-to-date data from the actors of the database ✓ Significant involvement in policy development and implementation; ○ Also ensure that contributions are taken into account ○ Be a force of proposal and representation ○ Be closer to the base in order to have evidence, reference situations, etc. adapted and proposed in national policies; ✓ Have a good structure and governance; ○ Have competent human capital (diagnosis, analysis, evaluation, etc.) ○ Make the right choice and identify the right people to participate in public policy advocacy meetings; ○ Assist CSOs and OPA contacts during political proceedings or decisions; ✓ Have an information, communication and advocacy strategy; ✓ Involve women and young people in decision making, etc.	✓ Advocate and produce messages to influence policy; ✓ Lobbying; ✓ Ensure follow-up actions or develop mechanisms to monitor the implementation of public policies; ✓ Implement a tracking system to review documents before moving on to national validation; ✓ Possibility of distributing the document in the form of an information note to members of the base in order to inform them that the concerns have been taken into account but not applied by the Public Policies; ✓ Involve the media and social networks in the dissemination, visibility of advocacy and lobbying for AE; ✓ Engage decision-makers/bodies to facilitate the implementation and/or application of public policies and the real needs of stakeholders; ✓ Participate in the revision of certain texts ✓ Develop an advocacy force and make proposals for advocacy content to national and regional decision-makers and organizations; ✓ Involve NGOs to strengthen the actions of OPAs and CSOs ✓ Learn more about public policies implemented; ✓ Facilitate a good synergy of advocacy action between the different existing networks: ○ Harmonize views and discourse on AE across different networks; ○ Have a common charter to harmonize visions; ○ Have a consensus and common understanding between CSO/POs and have a basic document that will be the subject of exchange with Public Policies;
Recommendations : ✓ The States and ECOWAS take responsibility for agricultural financing issues; ✓ Our agricultural policies are developed by the actors themselves and we ask for the participation of others; ✓ Participate in national bodies, including national assemblies, to influence decisions	

Theme: What public policies and interventions to ensure the scale-up of agro-ecological solutions, organic farming and CSA for natural resource restoration and management (land, fisheries, water resources, biodiversity and forested areas)

Recommendation to government and institutions that issues be resolved

Characteristics of case studies

Egg practices to allow for scalping

1. The Government of Gambia, through the Ministry of Agricultural Development, is implementing an active official agroecology plan, legally established official maps, working with NGOs promoting participatory research and multinational agroecology
2. The regional ECOWAS has funding for all agroecology, local forms practice agroecology and OA at the local level
3. Burkina Faso; limitation of the national agroecology strategy that brings together actors. It has three axes: capacity building in the area of advocacy, bioproducts, framework for concertation at different levels to discuss agroecology issues. All come together to form a national forum of consultants to discuss agroecology and set up a steering committee to monitor aspects of agroecology. The committee is composed of all stakeholders involved. We refer to international documents.

Theme: Promote the production of organic inputs, in sufficient quantity and good quality for the needs of AE and OA actors.

Actions/innovations/initiatives or solutions to be shared between PO and CSO networks at national and regional levels.	Recommendations and resolutions: measures and actions expected from decision-makers; possible areas of action for PO/CSO networks to promote; commitments of PO/CSO networks, etc..
a. Senegal has incubation centres where young people can be trained in activities related to the production of organic agricultural inputs. Chemicals and synthetic fertilizers cost millions of dollars to import each year. These centres should receive part of the funding to promote youth participation in the development of biofertilizers and other biological inputs. b. Burkina Faso has a national strategy that allows many operators to produce up to 500 tonnes of organic inputs. These must restructure to make a substantial contribution to the quantity of organic inputs needed by farmers and the quality assessed by researchers. c. In Benin, universities are developing bio-process licenses for the production of biofertilizers and bio inputs. They conducted a market survey to see if there were already	The following recommendations were made to governments, farmers' organizations and ECOWAS. Governments should.: 1. Encourage and grant tax exemptions for bioproducts under the “green tax policy”. 2. Use part of the synthetic fertilizer funds for agroecological subsidies. 3. Funding young people to start up agro-ecological businesses; funding and supporting bio-product research, involving farmers and traditional knowledge; and change the policy of extension services to integrate agroecology and bio-product expertise. 4. Protect regional markets for bio-based products in order to favour domestic versus international companies. Farmers' organizations and CSOs should; 1. list current organic products and practices and exchange information with other regional, national and sub-regional agricultural organizations, 2. organize the value chain including sellers, processors and consumers/collectors, 3. Communicate about bioproducts and agroecology through the media. ECOWAS States should:

companies specializing in this field, but found few and the products are not always available on the market. They have found a company or organization where students can work as interns to gain knowledge about bio-input production and processes, certification, etc. Plus, provide entrepreneurial training on the production of organic inputs.	1. Ensure that Member States implement and fund agricultural policies oriented towards agroecology. 2. Sit and produce bio-product declarations and agreements at regional and sub-regional level.
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Theme : How to strengthen the role of women and youth in Pos and CSO action for TAE, OA and CSA ; what service digitization approaches to effectively support their engagement and initiatives.

Challenges	Recommendations
1. How can we reach out to youth to encourage them to work with AE 2. How do we help women solve their land problems and access secure lands? 3. How does ECOWAS intervene to reduce bank loans and facilitate access to credit 4. How can we encourage young people to change their attitudes towards agriculture? 5. How to train young people and women in digital agriculture and especially AI in OA and EC? 6. How to train women in the effective management of their own resources for optimal benefits. 7. How can we help women and youth access agriculture all year round, that is to say during the rainy and dry seasons?	1. There is a need to come together in groups to deliver EI training: Youth training is underway, but the main challenge is finding funding to start. ECOWAS must also strengthen its presence to help women and youth obtain financial support. 2. Many women farmers are active in agriculture but still need available land for agriculture and an organized market to channel their products: How ECOWAS can help with loan repayment and the use and access of microfinance banks for rural women to improve their livelihoods? 3. Farmers need to be taught how to identify adulterated seeds and organic products. More women and farmers need to be trained and encouraged to produce. a. What can we do to train more organic farmers? The market and demand are increasing, for example in Ibadan, Nigeria we have about 6 organic markets created by the government. b. Emphasis on capacity building is important 4. The Finance Secretary for Small Farmers, Ms. Folashade, stressed that women suffer from land problems and demands a policy to be put in place so that local communities are forced to release land, especially to women, for group farming. 5. There is a need for ICT centres in our rural areas to train women and youth. There is also a need to provide equipment that supports digitization, such as network providers, electricity, and data access. This will now support the digitization of training outcomes. A case study is the GEJ program in Nigeria that encourages farmers to access information by telephone. 6. Women stressed the need for land to be available for organic farming, because after soil amendment, the effect lasts years on the farm, but if you do not own the agricultural land, It will be recovered before being fully used and all efforts will be in vain. 7. There is a need to draft a communiqué from this conference that will encourage a multi-sector solution to digitization where digitization will be integrated into the educational curriculum to attract young people and foster global visibility of the agricultural sector. 8. Women need maximum support from men. Women are multitaskers, both in the family and on the farm. To get the best, they need maximum support. How can we ensure flexible funding for agricultural activities for women and youth ? 9. We can also start small by working with EAs in their smaller units before upgrading.

	10. Farmers should be encouraged to organize in groups on WhatsApp, Facebook and other social networks to increase their visibility. Cinemas and comedy shows can also be organized to present their work after planting. 11. ECOWAS can help develop policies that encourage and protect the consumption of organic products at all levels.
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2.2.3. Limited consultation with the authorities of regional institutions (ECOWAS, WAEMU, CILSS, CORAF)

This meeting was chaired by the President of the 3AO steering committee, who in introduction recalled the will of 3AO to consolidate the actions developed with regional institutions.

Some interventions noted that this consultation helped to identify avenues to be taken into account in the next actions with regional institutions: details of the actions are set out in the annex to the final communiqué)

- Implement policies/strategies with more appropriate instruments and measures;
- Strengthen strategies and mechanisms for structural responses to the significant degradation of soil health, the development of diseases at the level of producers and citizens consumers and the increasing loss of biodiversity, related to the inappropriate use of synthetic inputs.
- Develop greater capacity to mobilize green funds for family farms, POs and grassroots communities for scaling up AE, OA and CSA to support the strengthening of AE resilience and the achievement of food sovereignty.
- Increase investments to develop viable and profitable territorial, national and regional markets for agricultural products and food products from resilient production practices based on agroecology, Organic farming and climate-smart agriculture.
- Implement tools for the promotion and development of knowledge management, training and learning systems and mechanisms to enhance the scale-up of AE, OA, CSA.
- Support the exploitation of their potential in scaling up agroecology, organic farming and climate-smart agriculture for sustainable transformation of food systems and food sovereignty.

2.2.3. Consultation between 3AO, WafroNet and ActionAid for future collaboration, roadmap for the follow-up of forum recommendations, guidelines for the next forum, etc.

The Chairman and Moderator of the session is the President of the 3AO Steering Committee Ibrahima Coulibaly

The main conclusions of the consultation are:

- Put in place mechanisms to formalize our work before we can mobilize funding.
- Create dialogues in the country within the framework of consultation to serve as a gateway at ECOWAS level.
- Develop our own trust fund (but it is above all about mobilizing training). All are in our country but we must strengthen them.
- Innovate our operations to include as many farmers in the agroecology system to feed our nation.
- research to show the extent of agroecology on the continent, interest in the agroecology framework, collaborate on resources for the agroecology business case with an intentional focus on movement creation, That is to say, on the construction of the state of mind of all stakeholders.
- share forum results
- establish a regular online meeting once a year and a half to meet to share a common platform, consolidate training on digital platforms, etc.
- Seek more funding to accelerate outreach to local communities.

- Find a way to reduce the funds used to facilitate this type of forum by disseminating information to local communities.
- Advocate for a reduction in the number of general participants to reduce costs.
- Thank ECOWAS by writing a letter of thanks for allowing this forum to take place.
- Establish a committee of two (2) representatives from 3AO, WAfrONet and Actionaid to develop strategies for the three (3) organizations to work together as a strong union for agroecology advocacy, Organic farming and climate change.

The members of the committee are:

- ⇒ Azubuike – Actionaid
- ⇒ Nkechinyelu – Actionaid
- ⇒ Olawunmi Benedict – WafrONet
- ⇒ Assane Gueye – WafrONet
- ⇒ Ouedraogo -3AO
- ⇒ Pakodtogo dieudonné – 3AO

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony featured three highlights. First, the draft of the main articulations of the Report of the forum was presented and validated in plenary after taking into account some proposals, suggestions and comments from participants.

The second highlight was the dedication and/or recognition of the work done by civil society actors, producer organizations, public or private persons who have through their activism in the service or in favor of agroecology, organic agriculture or climate-smart practices. Various awards were given to the most deserving.

Several speeches were made during the closing ceremony. Almost all of them expressed their thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this forum, and especially to the quality of the work done by the Regional Organizing Committee and the National Committee.

Among other findings, the critical role of agroecology was noted, as well as the funding of relevant approaches. As part of the findings, it was recognized that cooperation at the regional level had been strengthened and all the results achieved by the participants were described as tangible. Special thanks to ECOWAS and translators.

A concern, which many participants did not miss, regarding the increasing costs of the forums was raised by one speaker. One solution that could be considered would be for the meetings to be held alternately in person every two years and each year on a virtual basis.

The various member organizations of the forum were invited to cultivate and develop resilience or resistance in order to give a future to this continent.

CONCLUSION

It is not excessive to say that the Forum was a great success, both from the point of view of the participation of the various actors in the discussions during the work of the groups and in the panels. The exchanges were both rich and intense to the point that the time allotted was sometimes insufficient. It is also worth noting the spirit in which all the work was carried out, marked by courtesy and rigour. All the members of the various committees set up to steer all the work of the Forum are responsible for these valuable results. This observation, despite some shortcomings observed, was noted by speakers at the closing ceremony.