



Regional dimension sheet of the Regional Program for the Integration of Agricultural Markets (PRIMA in French and RPIAM in English)



Regional Program for the Integration of Agricultural Markets (PRIMA)

Signing of the grant agreement	February 14, 2023
Implementation	February 14, 2023
Completion date	March 31, 2028
Closing date	September 30, 2028



Goals

General objective (Goal): Ensure strengthened regional coordination and support the political dialogue activities necessary for better regional integration of agricultural markets by ensuring that national and regional Professional Organizations of agricultural value chains are stakeholders in the discussions.

The ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) offers better regional institutional anchoring, better sustainability of actions as well as a possibility of scaling up PRIMA / RPIAM in other countries in the region.

The regional dimension of PRIMA therefore resides resolutely in its capacity to carry out operations that could only be done at the regional level.

Specific development objective of the grant: To enable the program to integrate the regional approach (which is the heart of PRIMA) in support of the sustainable transformation of family farming in the cross-border areas of Togo Republic and Benin Republic.

Expected results

The expected results are:

- The provision of factual technical information and data on the functioning of semi-wholesale markets and their integration into sub-regional trade corridors covering cross-border areas between Benin and Togo, in order to contribute to political dialogue at the regional level, in accordance with regional priority policies and strategies;
- Improving the efficiency and impact of the programme's actions in economic, environmental and social areas through citizen engagement and the empowerment of regional producer organisations (POs);
- The coherent and effective implementation of prioritised technical and operational instruments (planning, implementation, coordination, management, M&E, KM) necessary for the PRIMA programme to implement a comprehensive and appropriate regional

Component No. 1: Regional trade integration

Component 1.1: Monitoring of trade corridors.

- Baseline study on marketing channels, cross-border flows, and barriers to trade in agro-pastoral products;
- Establishment of monitoring systems for cross-border trade flows of agro-sylvo-pastoral products linking the main markets in the intervention corridors between Benin and Togo, based on the results of the baseline study.

Component 1.2: Support for regional policies for markets and trade integration of agricultural products.

- Awareness and information activities to improve stakeholders' knowledge on the functioning of intra-community trade in agricultural and food products (regulatory instruments of ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), constraints, level of networking of operators);
- Advocacy activities for the implementation of ECOWAS and AfCFTA policies on the free movement of agricultural and food products in accordance with national policies. The aim is to bring authorities at different levels to take and implement appropriate measures to operationalize the requirements of the ECOWAS/UEMOA Trade Liberalization

Scheme, the regulatory provisions of the ECOWAS/UEMOA Customs Union and the AfCFTA ;

- Based on the data collected, production of analysis bulletins and decisions makers notes, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of all ECOWAS and AfCFTA trade facilitation instruments;
- Participation in political dialogue at the regional level ensured by the participation of the various actors in regional events (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, AfCFTA, etc.) and by the organization of high-level meetings of sectoral ministries of the countries involved in the regional project.

Component 1.3: Participation of networks of professional organizations of agricultural value chains (POs) and other civil society organizations (CSOs) in political dialogue

- Political dialogue on regional trade integration with the authorities on targeted measures and instruments;
- Capitalization of best practices in markets linkages;
- Capitalization and promotion of initiatives and experiences of PO and CSO networks in agroecology; and
- Regional exchange workshops – promotion and sharing of lessons learnt products.

Component No. 2: Civic engagement

Section 2.1: Establishment of exchanges frameworks and consultations for the benefit of stakeholders

- Creation of framework for meetings, consultations, interactive exchanges and civic education for the benefit of smallholders and their organizations, women and youth, and all social groups involved in market management;

Section 2.2: Establishment of a feedback mechanism

- Establishment of a feedback mechanism to feed into reflection and self-assessment on the participation of POs and CSOs in the stakeholders' platforms;
- Deployment of the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA) / Network of Farmers' and Producers' Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA in French) "Eye of the Peasant" methodology and other citizen control experiences developed by the CTOP / Togolese Coordination of Farmers Organizations (CTOP), particularly in Togo, in synergy with other civil society organizations;
- Dissemination of lessons learned and good practices in citizen engagement through the Peasant University module on the agro- ecological transition;

Component No. 3: Coordination, monitoring-evaluation and knowledge management.

IFAD's first regional programme in West Africa aimed to boost regional agricultural trade to create jobs for women and youth, increase incomes and improve food security and nutrition for the rural people.

Section 3.1: Project management and institutional support

- The ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) ensures the coordination of activities with a Regional Technical Support Unit (UniR-AT) in close collaboration with the countries in the implementation of activities. This RAAF team ensures the alignment of activities with the priorities of the regional agricultural policy, regional and continental trade facilitation instruments. For the activities that are their responsibility, POs and CSOs may be contracted by RPIAM.
- High-level authorities (relevant ministries) will meet regularly to monitor progress and possibly identify key sectoral policy challenges that can be jointly addressed within the regional framework of ECOWAS, UEMOA and AfCFTA.
- The RAAF will seek to develop synergies with regional, continental and worldwide institutions – as well as with other partners already engaged in the areas of intervention of the Programme in order to ensure greater efficiency of interventions vis-à-vis beneficiaries.

- Programme Steering: The strategic direction and overall supervision of the programme will be ensured by a Joint Steering Committee (CoPiC) co-chaired by the Ministers responsible for Agriculture of Benin and Togo, and the ECOWAS Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture. The mandate of the CoPiC will be: (i) to constitute a platform for dialogue between the governments of Benin and Togo, ECOWAS and key stakeholders in the implementation of the programme; (ii) to ensure that the programme is implemented in line with and consistent with regional policies on market integration and trade in agricultural products; (iii) to validate the work plan and the consolidated joint annual budget of the programme; and (iv) to endorse the programme activity reports.

Section 3.2: Monitoring-evaluation and knowledge management

- Carrying out monitoring and evaluation workshops and missions such as quarterly coordination meetings, donor supervision and monitoring missions, and mid-term and completion review missions;
- Carrying out thematic studies and the final survey;
- Documentation, communication and sharing of experiences between countries and key stakeholders;
- Development of key knowledge products, capitalization and information sharing workshops;

Budget

- Estimated budget: 5,000,000 US dollars
- Country-Refund Donation: USD 2,000,000
- IFAD Regional Grant: USD 2,000,000
- OFID Regional Grant: 1,000,000 USD *(not available)*

Partenaire financier

- The Governments of Benin and Togo
- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)



Roles

- PRIMA /RPIAM is implemented by three entities namely the PRIMA Benin Management Unit; the PRIMA Togo Management Unit and the Regional Technical Assistance Unit (UniR -AT) at ARAA / ECOWAS
- UniR- AT ensures regional coordination of the Program and is hosted within the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) of ECOWAS, which headquarter is in Lomé, Togo.

Key indicators and targets

- 30% increase in agricultural trade values and volumes between the two countries
- 10% increase in national contributions in intra-regional trade in agricultural products (in values)
- 30% reduction in the number of non-tariff barriers
- 30% increase in alignment with the regional trade regime (TEC, ECOWAS SLE)
- 9 Consultation frameworks by corridor created
- 10 policy-relevant knowledge products produced
- 30 processes / committees / sectoral policy consultation framework in which POs participate

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