



## For better phytosanitary governance in West Africa

*In West Africa, a major obstacle to promoting sustainable agriculture is the lack of harmonization and the limited facilitation of pesticide registration processes, particularly for biopesticides. This challenge requires urgent and focused attention. This note aims to inform and guide political decision-makers and development partners.*

### **Registration procedures, a systemic obstacle to the availability of biopesticides on the market**

An analysis of the context based on the specific case of mango highlights several interconnected challenges. Phytosanitary protection of mango trees is mainly based on chemical pesticides, which remain largely inaccessible to smallholder farmers due to their high cost. In fact, only four products are currently approved in the majority of West African countries, with a cost of product which varies between 276 000 and 385 000 FCFA/ha. Moreover, the international mango market is increasingly demanding in terms of pesticide residues, with, for example, new bans on molecules.

Fortunately, new agroecological technologies have been developed locally in recent years. The resulting biopesticides have proven to be highly suited to local conditions and less expensive (ranging from 100,000 to 135,000 FCFA) compared to imported products. This is the case for Mango Protect and SEN-BIOTRAP, developed with the support of SyRIMAO through participatory research conducted at the regional level.

SyRIMAO is a project implemented by ECOWAS and funded by AFD, the EU, and ECOWAS, aiming to improve the incomes of West African fruit and vegetable producers, particularly smallholders, to contribute to food security, poverty reduction, and job creation in the sub-region.

However, these biopesticides are still scarce and inaccessible. They are weakly produced because it is not yet possible to make an economic valuation or commercial exploitation on a regional scale. These biopesticides are unregistered at the regional level due to the coexistence of different procedures between countries, the long duration of the processes, and the high cost of the analyses and tests required, the limited technical capacity of laboratories to take into account the specificities of biopesticides. A possibility of exemption exists, but this remains an exceptional or temporary measure. Special conditions are not made for agroecological products.



Attractive SEN BIOTRAP  
Source: [ARAA News](#), 2025

As a result, there is a weak use of these biopesticides by farmerseven though they showed a good knowledge (50% of farmers for Mango protect and 38% for SEN-BIOTRAP) due to the dissemination efforts made by the SyRIMAO project. This low use (58% for Mango Protect in Burkina, where the product benefited from exemption, and 0% for the other countries) is the origin of interceptions of shipments of mangoes at the borders of the European Union due to fruit flies.

Countries like Mali are banned from exporting to the European Union, resulting in a loss of more than 25 billion FCFA. Others, like Senegal, are under threat of an export ban. In the Ivory Coast, it was under observation until recently.

## The diversity and complexity of registration processes delay the availability of biopesticides

The procedure for biopesticide registration remains state-owned in many countries in West Africa, even as there is a trend towards pooling research efforts through the maturation of National Specialization Centers in Center Regional of Excellence. The diversity (procedural and state) and the complexity of the processes of registration, by delaying the availability of biopesticides, have effects both agronomic (low yields), economic (product losses), and health (interceptions, chemical residues).



## A harmonized process and facilitation of the registration is essential!

Sub-regional approaches of registration, such as the one based on the Sahelian Pesticide Committee (CSP) in place since 1994, are an institutional advance but still have many shortcomings in their procedures. The dynamization of the West African Pesticide Registration Committee (COAHP) created in 2012 remains the hope for regional harmonization. However, it is necessary to obtain membership and strong commitment from all countries and ensure that operational procedures are put in place. This concern concerns the new generations of existing biopesticides, the biopesticides that will be

developed in the future in the horticultural, especially mango, but also other sectors of food and cash crops. The establishment of a harmonized registration process would expand the biopesticide market, thereby enhancing their availability and economic accessibility. Furthermore, facilitating the registration process would allow new biopesticides to be brought to market more quickly and encourage innovation. This harmonized process must be flexible, fast, and take into account the specific characteristics of biopesticides.

*Many producers who have used Mango Protect and SEN-BIOTRAP in 5 countries in the region indicate an increase in their yield (38% of producers), production (5% of production from one year to another), their income (59% of producers), their socio-economic resilience (71% of producers); and also job creation (35% of producers with 5-8 new jobs created per farm).*



Mango sellers in Tafiré, Ivory Coast

## Significant economic impacts on agricultural sectors

The adoption of this recommendation would lead to several significant benefits. The export potential of agricultural products would be valued, and post-harvest losses would decrease. New economic opportunities would be generated in terms of increased income, farm resilience, and job creation in value chains. This would open, finally, perspectives of public-private partnerships aimed at large-scale distribution of biopesticides and the development of new job niches.



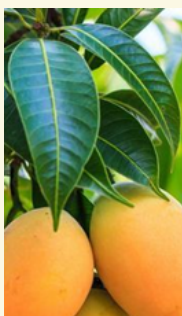
## Financial partners



## Technical partners



*This publication is produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Agence française de développement. Its content is the sole responsibility of ECOWAS and do not necessarily reflect neither the opinions of European Union nor the ones of the Agence française de développement.*



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