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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ECOWAS, Government of Ghana, the World Bank Group is Organizing West Africa Rice Investment Roundtable

*To Mobilise Transformational Capital to Support West Africa's Rice Agenda*  
Kempinski Hotel, Accra, Ghana | 02–03 June 2026



The ECOWAS Commission in close collaboration with the Government of Ghana, the host country with the strategic support of the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank, and other key donor partners working within the West Africa rice value chain will convene the West Africa Rice Investment Roundtable from 2 – 3 June 2026 in Accra, Ghana.

The Roundtable will mark a critical transition from policy and planning to investment mobilization for the implementation of the Regional Rice Roadmap (2025–2035) and the National Rice Investment Action Plans of West African countries. The event will bring together governments, development finance institutions, commercial banks, private investors, agribusiness leaders, research organizations, donor partners, and regional institutions to unlock coordinated, scalable, and sustainable investments across the rice value chain.

Rice remains West Africa's fastest-growing staple food, accounting for approximately 40 percent of cereal consumption across the region. However, regional rice self-sufficiency currently stands at about 61 percent, resulting in annual imports of nearly 12 million metric tons of rice at a cost exceeding US\$3.5 billion annually. This growing dependence on imports continues to place significant pressure on the region's economic resilience, food sovereignty, and long-term prosperity.

Following the endorsement of the ECOWAS Regional Rice Roadmap by ECOWAS Heads of State in Abuja in December 2024, Member States have finalized investment-ready National Rice Investment Action Plans identifying commercially viable opportunities in irrigation, mechanization, seed systems, milling, logistics, storage, and agricultural finance. The Roundtable is expected to catalyze investment commitments and strengthen regional coordination through:

- High-level policy dialogue;



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- Presentation of regional and national investment portfolios from ECOWAS Member States;
- Structured financing and investment discussions;
- Country-focused B2B deal rooms;
- Endorsement of the West Africa Regional Rice Investment Compact.

Key highlights of the event will include ministerial sessions bringing together Ministers of Agriculture and Finance to advance critical policy reforms and strengthen regional coordination toward achieving rice self-sufficiency and ultimately surplus production at both national and regional levels. The Roundtable will also feature high-level dialogues with leading private sector actors across the rice value chain focused on mobilizing financing, leveraging blended finance instruments, scaling technical know-how, and unlocking commercially viable partnerships. These discussions are expected to generate concrete commitments from regional and international private sector stakeholders.

In addition, development finance institutions (DFIs) and financial partners will engage in strategic discussions on financing solutions, investment opportunities, and mechanisms to scale investment across the rice value chain. Participating institutions are expected to announce concrete regional commitments in support of rice-sector transformation.

The Roundtable is also expected to reinforce institutional and government commitment to the goals of the ECOWAS Rice Agenda through strengthened regional coordination, monitoring, and accountability for rice-sector investments and implementation across the region.

The event positions 2026 as an inflection year for accelerating rice-sector transformation, strengthening food sovereignty, creating jobs, reducing import dependence, and building a more resilient and prosperous regional economy.

For more information, please visit the Event Page at: <https://roundtable.torusguru.com/>

Non-accredited media, as well as media based outside Ghana, are cordially invited to follow the sessions via livestream. The viewing link will be shared upon request.

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