



West Africa Seed Program (WASP)
Consultation meeting with regional seed partners and initiatives

Report

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Sunday, 9th December 2012

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Opening Remarks

1. The WASP/CW consultation meeting with the regional seed partners and initiatives, was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on Sunday, December 9, 2012, in the conference hall of Joly Hotel, Ouaga 2000. Participants who took part in the meeting were: officers of WASP and CORAF / WECARD Regional Office, African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA), Network of Farmers and Agricultural Producers Organization in West Africa (ROPPA), Rural Hub, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel / Sahel Institut (CILSS / INSAH), two international centers for agricultural research in the sub-region (International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and AfricaRice - Rice Centre for Africa (formerly WARDA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Invited but unable to take part in this consultation meeting were representatives of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Seed Project of the European Union (ECO-AGRIS) and the Office of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for West Africa. The complete list of participants and the concept note of the meeting containing the agenda are annexed to this meeting report. The meeting was opened by the Commissioner for Agriculture, environment and water resources of ECOWAS, Dr Marc Lapodini Atouga and facilitated by the Executive Director of the Rural Hub, Dr. Yamar Mbodj.

2. In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of CORAF / WECARD (ED / CW) thanked all the participants for agreeing to take part in the meeting, despite the changes of date and day (Sunday), which also constitutes a material evidence of the participants' interest for the seed sector. He said that following the call for proposals (*Request For Application* - RFA), launched by the USAID Bureau for West Africa, a consortium involving virtually all stakeholders in the seed sector of the sub-region of West Africa, has been established and CORAF / WECARD was appointed to carry the proposal on behalf of the members of that consortium. This proposal received the approval of USAID / WA for a grant of U.S. \$ 9 million for a period of five years. The ED/CW then gave a summary of the recommendations and conclusions of the consultation workshop with the stakeholders and launching of WASP, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 13th and 14th September 2012, before making a brief description of the terms of reference of this consultation meeting with the regional seed initiatives. He stressed the need to pool limited resources and create synergies and complementarities. He concluded his remarks by stating that the project will be completed by the partners themselves - CORAF/WECARD ensuring the coordination - and wished the participants success and strong recommendations.

3. The ECOWAS Commissioner said how happy he was to be present at the consultation meeting and reiterated his apology to participants and CORAF / WECARD for not being able to take part in the consultation workshop with the stakeholders and launching of WASP, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 13th and 14th September 2012. He reiterated the importance of quality seed of improved crop varieties in yielding development and therefore the seed sector in the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP). He has, moreover, encouraged the actors in that sector to give the highest importance to this project, in order to ensure effective implementation of its objectives, in particular, its perpetuation. To do this, he stressed on the need to conduct diagnostic studies and uncompromising work within the WASP with objectivity in the search for solutions of the seed sector major problems in order to avoid having to repeat the same things years later. He expressed the ambition to see the current generation seal mark the current management of the sub-regional seed sector and great hopes in creating an alliance for the seed industry in West Africa (ASIWA), to ensure availability in quantity and quality seed of improved varieties adapted to the sub-regional environment and thus contribute to increasing agricultural productivity. He also expressed the desire for greater

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involvement of civil society and, in particular journalists who should be more proactive in order to ensure effective dissemination of successful experiences with oil stain effect, but also for the less successful ones for public awareness. He concluded by wishing participants success in their deliberations and declared open the consultation meeting with the regional seed initiatives.

4. In his speech, the Honorary President of ROPPA, Mr. Mamadou Cissokho, also thanked ECOWAS and CORAF / WECARD for associating them with this meeting. He assured that as a network heavily involved in the seed sector, ROPPA will ensure that the fundamentals of the seed sector are addressed. He then heckled the Commissioner to plead with the technical and financial partners in favor of the seed sector.

5. After these opening speeches, a break was made for a group photograph and to allow the Commissioner to leave.

Presentation of WASP

6. At the end of the first break, Dr. Ernest Asiedu, WASP Project Manager was asked by the facilitator to present the project economics. His presentation focused on the following points: (i) an introduction, (ii) programs, objectives and results, (iii) description of WASP, (iv) cross - cutting issues, (v) project governance and (vi) conclusion. In his introduction, the Project Manager presented respectively the major technical and cross – cutting issues of the seed systems, the political and institutional environment of the sub-region, the opportunities and assumptions relating to the implementation of the project and a brief Comparative description of the other relevant seeds programs managed by CORAF / WECARD (AUSAID and WAAPP). He then approached the WASP itself, making a detailed description of the targeted objective, which is to increase the availability of quality seeds from the current 12% to 25% at the end of the five projects in the seven target countries. He then described in detail, through a framework of results (five results: establishment of an Alliance for seed industry operating in West Africa - ASIWA (R1), effective implementation of seed regulations C / REG.4/05/2008 ECOWAS (R2), assured availability of pre-basic categorical quality seed (R3), effective participation of the private sector to different links in the value chain seed to ensure the availability of certified seed (R4) and strengthening of ANCS, to enable them fully play their role as leader over national seed (R5)).

7. For each of the five results, interventions planned for achieving the outcomes were recalled. Cross-cutting issues were then described and include among others, innovation platforms for regional vs. national seed systems. With regard to the management and governance of WASP, Dr Asiedu noted that the Regional Coordination Team is made of six agents to be recruited: Project Manager (i), seed policy and advocacy specialist (ii) seed production specialist (iii) Agro-business specialist (iv) monitoring and evaluation specialist (v) Administrator - Accountant (vi). At the national level, plans are being taking to recruit an agent in each target country, making seven national coordinators and an assistant driver. Dr. Asiedu concluded his presentation by recalling the recommendations of the consultation workshop and launch held in Abidjan on 13th and 14th September 2012, measures for preserving the quality (physical, physiological and sanitary) seeds and importance of using quality seed in improving agricultural production.

8. Dr. Asiedu's presentation raised a number of concerns among which we will retain only the main ones :

- The preservation of traditional varieties and, in general, the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the sub-region of West Africa, including emerging issues of intellectual property;
- The concept of private sector: what it covers?
- Investment structuring the national seed systems ;
- Funding of regional seed projects by the technical and financial partners (TFP): what is the contribution of the beneficiary states ;
- The monitoring and evaluation of activities at the regional level on the seed sector and regional information system ;
- Investments link - seed production - market ;

9. In light of the concerns raised, some answers have been provided. Thus, it has been shown that plant genetic resources in the sub-region have been collected and stored in base collections, ie long-term and active collections, ie medium term, at IITA with regards to rice and corn, at ICRISAT, for millet, sorghum and groundnuts. In general, plant genetic resources are preserved in collections of work in national research systems (NARS) gene banks, for the purposes of research, breeding, education and agriculture. Given their importance for the development of new plant varieties or for direct use in agricultural production, NARS are required to have, at their program level plant breeding, plant genetic resources and collections of their major crops. The success of a breeding program depends on the availability of a broad genetic base. The more it is large, the more likely it is to find genes favorable to the creation of new plant varieties satisfying the conditions of their farms and consumer demands. This fact has also been the basis of the International Treaty of the Organization of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

10. For the private sector concept, representative of AFSTA for West Africa, and Central Djigo M Amadou Moustapha, has made a remarkable intervention, indicating this concept has been discussed at length within ANCS as farmer's organizations, while they were chaired by Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President of the current ROPPA. He said a consensus was reached on what is meant by private seed sector. Debates were not extended on this matter.

11. Investment structuring national seed systems (storage, cold rooms, laboratories and seed testing equipments, etc..) are provided in the framework of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity (WAAPP). This funding from the World Bank is a loan to the States, unlike the WASP grant from USAID. WASP and WAAPP agreed to pool resources in the field of seed and these structuring investments should be taken into account.

12. Given the foregoing, the question of contributions of TFP grant recipient states on seeds is therefore resolved - WAAPP being a kind of compensation.

Sharing of experiences by the sub-regional initiatives seed

13. During the consultation workshop with partners and the launching of WASP, it was recommended that a meeting be held with regional seed initiatives, to take into account lessons learned and experiences in order to facilitate the implementation of WASP. Seed initiatives below have shared their experiences and lessons learned: WASA / ICRISAT, ASPRODEB / ROPPA, AFSTA / WAROC, INSAH / CILSS, AfricaRice and IITA.

WASA/ICRISAT (by Dr Bonny NTARE)

14. The WASA is the result of a public-private partnership between USAID, AGRA, AFSTA and ECOWAS. The Seeds Project is the contribution of USAID to WASA. This financial contribution is executed by ICRISAT which is the technical arm of USAID. WASA was for a period of four years (December 2007 - December 2011). Six countries in West Africa are targeted by WASA for most of the project activities. They are Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. WASA's mission was to promote, in West Africa, a strong commercial seed industry, capable of ensuring small farmers, a regular supply of quality seeds and seedlings, improved crop varieties, in time and at affordable price; to play a leading role in the growth and development of sustainable systems of agricultural inputs; to support the overall growth of West African agricultural sector and create an enabling environment for agricultural development. Originally planned to create a West African Seed Alliance (WASA), the project only received financial support from the partner USAID, through the Seeds Project which was implemented by ICRISAT with CNFA and ISU. The alliance was formally initiated in 2009 through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between USAID-WA, AGRA, AFSTA, ECOWAS. AFSTA has been designated to coordinate the alliance. USAID was until the end, the only financial partner.

Some tips for building an operational ASIWA by WASA / ICRISAT

15. Based on the lessons learned from experience with WASA, described above, to build an operational ASIWA, it is necessary to do the following:

- Involve the right people and institutions;
- Define common vision and goals;
- Develop realistic goals and transparency with regard to resources and responsibilities ;
- Agree on guiding principles for the allocation of tasks and conflict resolution;
- Allocate time and resources for the development of effective partnerships, including ensuring trust, commitment and transparent communication;
- Establish clear expectations for the investment of time and decision-making meetings and the implementation of the program ;
- Decide and communicate seamlessly ;
- Focus on simple and effective procedures;
- Give more importance to performance than politics, seniority and hierarchy;
- Work with innovation systems and the multi-stakeholder partnership for effective communication between different actors;
- Share recognition and responsibility for results;
- Respect, trust and communication are essential to the success of the relationships between farmers and industry, both in formal agreements (written MoUs) or informal (verbal agreements);

16. Dr. Ntare concluded by stating that innovation is possible when all stakeholders in the value chain are fully aware of the benefits of new technology / new product, clearly and

transparently, that is to say, not written in scientific / business jargon. Seed systems cannot grow outside the seed market. They must be directed to this market.

AFSTA/WAROC (by Amadou Moustapha DJIGO)

17. The African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) is a non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit organization which has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with a West Africa office in Bamako, Mali. AFSTA was born from the desire of Africans to have a regional entity to represent the seed industry and promote the development of private seed sector. The Association was created in an inaugural conference, held on 20th and 21st March 2000 in Pretoria, South Africa. The opening of an AFSTA office for West Africa, in Bamako (October 2009), is a decision of the Board of Directors (BoD) to get closer to the seed region to better assist them in promoting West African seed industry. Given the security situation in Mali, its Board of Directors decided that the office be transferred to Dakar, Senegal.

18. The AFSTA mission is threefold: (i) provide a forum for interaction and exchange of information for actors in the African seed industry, (ii) represent the interests of the seed industry in Africa and the world, and (iii) promote the development of a strong private seed industry in Africa, to contribute to food security and overall economic growth.

19. AFSTA's vision is a strong and sustainable African seed industry, that: (i) provides farmers with availability in time and space, quality seed of improved varieties adapted to the conditions of their farms, (ii) represents the interests of seed companies in national forums and regional agricultural development, (iii) provides farmers with knowledge on improving agricultural productivity through the use of quality seeds.

20. Mr. Djigo gave a detail of the membership status indicating that AFSTA currently has 91 members of which 23 ANCS, 35 private seed companies, three service providers and 30 associations and private seed companies outside Africa (associate members) - AFSTA having members in all four regions of Africa. In West Africa, in addition to the Regional Office for West and Central Africa, AFSTA has members (ANCS) in Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin (Country targeted by WASP), Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire. There is a Special Committee for "West Africa" within AFSTA (in charge of issues pertaining to the private seed sector in the sub-region) and two board members from countries of the sub-region (Senegal and Cameroon). Djigo then declined a number of collaborative activities carried out in the sub-region, in relation to the first AFSTA mission: strengthening the capacity of ANCS to facilitate the implementation of WASP (relocation of the West Africa Regional Office in Dakar; ANCS training on topics that are relevant to them, such as: financial management, agribusiness, seed technology, ANCS management, etc.. He provided guidance on the establishment of an ASIWA. To this end, he recalled that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between AFSTA and ECOWAS.

21. Mr. Djigo concluded by saying that the seed is the most essential input for any policy of quantitative and qualitative improvement of food production but also the production of renewable energy and raw materials. It should be available to farmers in quantity and quality, in time and in space. AFSTA favors the placing on the market of standard quality seed through the professionalization of African seed industry.

ASPRODB/ROPPA (by M. Ousmane NDIAYE)

22. ROPPA was formally founded in July 2000, during a meeting in Cotonou, Benin, which was attended by a hundred of farmers' leaders mandated by their organizations. It brings together organizations or "frameworks dialogue" in 10 West African countries. This set is not closed and the ambition in the medium term is to host farmers' organizations of all ECOWAS countries, which represents the real West Africa. ASPRODEB a member of ROPPA represents this network at this consultation meeting. ASPRODEB was born from the common will of the Government of Senegal, the farmers' organizations and the local elected officials. It was created on 22nd February 1995, received legal recognition as an NGO in July 21, 1997, and is made of 29 organizations including the APCR (Association of Presidents of Rural Communities). ASPRODEB is a tool that provides services to farmers' organizations to strengthen technical and organizational capacity, financial management and advisory support. Thus, its main tasks are to (i) support the national associations of FOs and other producer organizations at regional and local level in the implementation of programs negotiated with the government and development partners: (ii) provide to the federations and all components of the Peasant Movement, technical and professional supports and advice necessary to achieve the economic programs of the FO and those to whom they are associated, (iii) Inform the producers federations and provide them with advice and support to promote greater professionalism in providing services to their members, (iv) support producer organizations in their structuring and the development of competitiveness in the agricultural sector.

Lessons learned from the seed production by the farmers' organizations (FOs) in West Africa according to ASPRODEB / ROPPA

- The production of certified seed is provided by family farms to the exclusion of any agri-business.
- Possibility of a scheme, a model of production of certified, professionalized, efficient and sustainable seed based on organized and managed structures by FOs.
- A political, institutional and administrative environment specifying the roles and responsibilities of different actors as well as ethical / governance are essential.
- A close relationship must be established between the production and sale of seeds and the promotion of sectors / value chains: this relationship is an approach to ensuring funding for the production and collection of certified seeds.
- For the market for certified seeds to be useful and beneficial to all, it requires a coordination and a sharing of functions (production, collection, storage, distribution, control, certification, litigation, etc..).

Concerns raised

- Consolidate ROPPA initiatives to cover up the needs for seeds and seedlings of family farms.
- Build with the other stakeholders (agricultural research, official inspection services and certification of seeds, distributors, financial institutions, etc.) the regional and national markets for certified transparent seeds, geographically and financially accessible to family farms.
- Improve the coordination of public support for certified seed, particularly through greater harmonization of approaches and greater complementarities.

INSAH/CILSS (by Dr Siaka DEMBELE)

23. The representative of INSAH / CILSS, Dr. Siaka Dembele, articulated his speech around three points: Background (i) CILSS interventions in the seed sub-sector (ii) and Prospects for WASP (iii).

24. In terms of context and interventions in the field of seeds, Dr Dembele noted that CILSS mission required promising technologies including agricultural inputs of which improved seeds are well placed. The emphasis put on agricultural inputs, is evidenced by the establishment of the "Department Agricultural Inputs and Regulations - DRIAR" responsible for matters relating to seeds, pesticides and fertilizers, but also of bio-security in CILSS. He said that CILSS, at the beginning of the year 2000, conducted studies on seed industries, including food crops and potatoes in some of its member states (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, ...) as varietal adaptability trials on cereals and legumes (millet, groundnut, cowpea).

25. Dr Dembele then stated that in the framework of the harmonization of seed policies, CILSS was precursor before agreeing later with ECOWAS-UEMOA, of a common seed regulation adopted in 2006, by Member States of CILSS, those of ECOWAS in 2008 and Member States of UEMOA in 2009. He also indicated that CILSS has been involved in the implementation of this Community Seed Regulation, in particular through the alignment of legislation and regulations, training and electronic data management of the regional catalog of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species.

26. He also presented the experience of setting up and implementation by CILSS (1992), of the common legislation on pesticides, including the Sahel Pesticides Committee (CSP), and indicated that this experience of centralized management of pesticides could be a case study for COASem.

27. Dr. Dembélé concluded by suggesting that to achieve the WASP, it would be necessary for the coordination of the project to :

- Empower each partner around specific objectives;
- Formalize the participation of partners through subcontracts with CORAF and allocate the necessary resources to achieve results, and
- Monitor and coordinate the implementation of activities.

AfricaRice or Rice center for Africa (by Dr Amadou Moustapha BEYE)

28. AfricaRice's intervention focused on establishing networks and alliances on seeds, through sharing lessons learned from a case study entitled "Improving the Competitiveness of Rice in Central Africa (*Common Fund for Commodities* - CFC)." This study aims at: (i) improving food security, (ii) increasing rural incomes and (iii) reducing dependence on imported rice in the Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC). To achieve this, the three strategic steps below were followed:

- Development of packaging pilot centers at Community level;
- Integration of seed production and paddy and packaging programs;
- Development of alliances through sharing.

29. Dr. Beye then presented the results of this study structured around the following three points: capacity building for national research systems and agricultural and farmers' extension (i) strengthening of trust between partners (ii) formation of groups around packaging centers (iii), before indicating that the success of this approach is :

- Full involvement of governments, local communities (infrastructure, taxes, etc..) And micro-finance institutions;
- Creation of platforms;
- The creation of packaging centers representing the cornerstone of the system. All activities are managed and controlled by the center;
- Capacity building;
- Awareness and information on market opportunities ;
- Trust between stakeholders;
- Sharing of farmers with private operators;

30. Dr. Beye then concluded by stating that the establishment of an alliance is a long process. However, the alliance may be operative if all concerns from the parties are taken into account. Governments and donors are invited to facilitate the outcome of farmers.

31. Governments and donors are encouraged to increase the involvement of farmers. To do this, it is important to build confidence among stakeholders through awareness and information on existing opportunities and capacity building. The Creation of a conducive environment for the emergence of SMEs seed to move freely across borders is essential for the development of the seed value chain.

IITA (by Dr Silvestro MESEKA)

32. The intervention of Dr. Meseka consisted at making the economy of the four following projects related to enhancing maize seed systems in West Africa :

- WECAMAN – West and Central Africa Maize Network;
- PIDOM – Presidential Initiative to double maize production in Nigeria;
- DTMA – Drought Tolerant Maize in Africa;
- AGRA/PASS – Seed dissemination of hybrids varieties in West Africa.

33. Based on the DTMA project which targets four countries (Benin, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria), he said that the experience of IITA in these countries shows that seed systems differ from one country to other:

- Benin : lack of seed companies and only one company ensures the supply of maize seed;
- Nigeria : with the largest number of seed companies and registered varieties;
- Ghana & Mali : with an average number of seed companies;
- Corn hybrids are produced and marketed in Ghana and Nigeria;
- The process for plant variety registration takes two to three years;

- Difficulties in accessing pre-basic and basic seed.

34. Dr. Meseka then presented the major constraints to the production of maize seed before concluding by giving the results of the projects mentioned above, in terms of number of varieties developed and registered, training in management of plant genetic resources meant for the seed companies and NARS, conducting tests and coordinated regional distribution of improved germplasm in the West African sub-region.

Outcome of the discussions

35. After the presentations by seed partners and Initiatives in the West African sub-region, the lessons learned from past experiences in strengthening seed systems, the facilitator opened the discussions. The discussions focused more on elements of clarification rather than on the discussions themselves. These elements of clarification were: the vision, principles and objectives (i) lessons learned (ii) and major directions for the implementation of ASIWA (iii). Below is the outcome of the discussions.

Vision, principles and objectives

36. The establishment of an Alliance for seed industry in West Africa (ASIWA) comes into line with the implementation of ECOWAP. Through WASP, ECOWAS will strengthen the political and financial environment, providing a safe base for the development of the sector.

37. ASIWA remains the first key tool, an ideal framework involving the sub regional seed systems actors, to pilot the WASP. The West African Seed Committee (COASem) is the second key tool to work together with the first to the coordination of the national seed committees of the ECOWAS Member States, in accordance with Article 5.3 of ECOWAS implementing regulation 01/06/12 on the functions, organization and operation of COASem. The establishment and operationalization of these two tools should create the conditions for a real revitalization of the ECOWAS / CILSS seed systems and thus contribute to the development of the agricultural sector as a whole. It was agreed that the governing body of ASIWA be CORAF / WECARD.

38. The fear of some partners to have a single donor for WASP was erased with the existence of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP). In fact, during the consultation workshop with partners and the launching of WASP in Abidjan, it was recommended that WAAPP be the gateway in the target countries of the WASP. Planned activities within the WASP should be supported by two programs: WASP (USAID) and WAAPP (WB).

39. Regarding the involvement of donors in the direction of the programmed activities, it was stressed that it will depend on the country's level of organization and of the respect by the latter, of the provisions of the ECOWAS seed legislation- WASP implementing the said legislation. Any deviation by WASP from its initial objectives could cause the donor to interfere in the conduct of the program.

Lessons learned and best practices

40. It is as follows :

- WASA failed in terms of bringing regional seed partners to work together within the framework of the alliance. Indeed, the establishment of an operational alliance requires a commitment of the partners (regional and international) to work together by pooling resources necessary to achieve the objectives of the Alliance.
- Lack of adequate infrastructure to carry out the activities of each link in the value chain seeds.
- Innovation platforms and centers of excellence are effective ways to ensure a supply of quality seed. In the West African sub-region, these platforms and centers are weakly operative.
- The benefits of GMOs are recognized. However, there is an aversion to them. It was therefore recommended not to reject them in blocks but to rather benefit from them.
- A contract agreement system between seed producers and research institutions provides a more accurate estimate of pre-basic quantities needed for basic seed production.
- The durability of a seed system depends on its orientation towards the seed market. Unfortunately, in West Africa, the seed market is narrow and needs to be developed to make the seed system more dynamic.

The major guidelines for the implementation of ASIWA

41. They are :

- All seed partners and initiatives (regional and international) should be encouraged to get involved in the activities of the ASIWA in order to achieve its objectives.
- ECOWAS cognizant of the importance of the ideal setting for the ASIWA consultation has re-expressed its strong support for the establishment of this alliance. In this context, ECOWAS requested CORAF / WECARD to coordinate and govern this alliance on its behalf.
- The Monitoring and evaluation of ASIWA will involve all partners in the alliance; with a view to enhancing its ownership by its members.

Conclusions and recommendations

42. Based on the lessons learned from experiences and discussions, the following recommendations were made by the seed partners and initiatives in the sub-region:

- i) Involve the right people and institutions in the alliance;*
- ii) Develop a common vision and goals;*
- iii) Develop realistic goals and transparency with regard to resources and responsibilities;*
- iv) Agree on guiding principles for the allocation of tasks and conflict resolution;*
- v) Allocate time and resources for the development of effective partnerships, including trust, commitment and transparent communication;*

- vi) Establish clear expectations for the investment of time and decision-making, meetings and the implementation of the program;*
- vii) Take decisions and communicate seamlessly;*
- viii) Focus on simple and effective procedures;*
- ix) Give more importance to the performance*
- x) Work with innovation systems and the multi-stakeholder partnership for effective communication between different actors;*
- xi) Share recognition and responsibility for results;*
- xii) Respect, trust and communication are essential to the success of the relationships between farmers and industry, both in formal agreements (written MoUs) or informal (verbal agreements);*
- xiii) Establish a close relationship between the production and sale of seed, through, inter alia, the promotion of sectors / value chains.*
- xiv) Decline ASIWA countries in line with other existing or future programs platforms and seed initiatives such as WAAPP, EU, etc..*
- xv) Empower each member of the alliance in the implementation, based on the comparative advantages and develop subcontracts with CORAF / WECARD.*
- xvi) In view of the concern about genetically modified (GM) varieties and raised by a partner, it was agreed that a note be prepared to give ECOWAS position on the issue.*