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# **West Africa Seed Program (WASP)**

**Stakeholder Consultative and Launching Workshop**

## **Report**

**Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire**

**13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

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## ACHRONYMS

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AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
AfricaRice	Africa Rice Centre
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
ASIWA	Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa
AVRDC	World Vegetable Center
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program
CILSS	Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse
CORAF/WECARD	Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles/West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Agricultural Policy
FAAP	Framework for African Agricultural Productivity
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FtF	Feed the Future
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IP	Intellectual Property
ISRA	Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plan
NARIs	National Agricultural Research Institutes
NARS	National agricultural research systems
NSTAs	National Seed Trade Associations
NVRC	National Variety Release Committee
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
RAIP	Regional Agricultural Investment Program
ROPPA	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l’Afrique de l’Ouest
UEMOA	Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WECARD	West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development
WASA	West Africa Seed Alliance
WASP	West Africa Seed Program

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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- CORAF/WECARD is constituted by NARS in 22 countries in West and Central Africa (WCA; 15 in West Africa and 7 in Central Africa). Total population in WCA is over 318 million people (about 250 million in West Africa), 60-70% of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Poverty rates stand at 62% in the Sahelian zone, 57% in Central Africa and 52% in the Coastal zone. Agriculture accounts for 35 of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 15% of export earnings. The agricultural productivity growth rate had however been stagnant over the past 40 years with recent increase in growth occurring in the coastal West Africa, estimated at 2.5% over the past 10 years. The gap between the high population growth rate (3.1%) and the low agricultural productivity has resulted in widespread poverty and food insecurity. Nevertheless, the US\$ 20 billion potential worth of staple crops in the sub-region<sup>1</sup>, the 70-80% yield gap, growing demands from urban population, industrialization, regional and international markets, present an opportunity for raising outputs of farmers to increase rural incomes and improve food security.
- The African Union–NEPAD’s CAADP<sup>2</sup>, seeks to achieve 6% agricultural productivity growth by 2015 with a goal ... ***agriculture-led development that eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, opening the way for export expansion.*** CORAF/WECARD, having being designated by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs - ECOWAS, UEMOA and CEAC) is implementing CAADP **Pillar IV (*Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption*)** within WCA. CORAF/WECARD has also mapped out the scope of its collaboration with USAID/West Africa within the framework of its existing strategy (2007-2016), the USAID Feed the Future (FtF) initiative that shows strong coherence with the CAADP, and the agricultural policy of the RECs, such as ECOWAP. Increasing the use of improved seeds, fertilizer, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) soil water management, pre and post-harvest practices, climate information and market access, are critical in raising agricultural productivity and production and, therefore, in responding to the CAADP, ECOWAP and the USAID FtF objectives. Capitalizing on the opportunities provided by these policy environments will, therefore, be critical to the successful implementation of the West Africa Seed Programme (WASP).
- The USAID grant of US\$ 9,000,000 approved over a period of five year (2012 – 2017) is supporting WASP to expand the availability of quality seeds from the current 12 to 25% over the five year period with a goal to contribute to the sustainable improvement of agricultural productivity. The program seeks to achieve its objectives by building an Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) involving all partners working in the seed sector, which will ensure a sustainable production and use of quality seeds of the major staple crops. The program will allow ECOWAS and CILSS countries to share experiences across the sub-region and with other regions of the world while minimizing duplication of effort among programs, and building synergies.
- The Program draws upon the combined expertise of the CGIAR centres, NARS including the National Seed Services, Quality Control and Certification Agencies, NGOs, Farmers’ organizations, Universities, Local and National Private Sector Organizations and Companies, Seed initiatives, Sub-regional organizations and International private sector organizations and

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<sup>1</sup> CORAF/WECARD IFPRI (2006) *Regional Strategic Priorities in Agriculture for Growth and Poverty Reduction in West and Central Africa: An Economic and GIS Analysis*

<sup>2</sup> NEPAD: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Midrand, South Africa. August 2002. 142pp

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companies to achieve the following expected results: i) an inclusive West Africa Consortium established and operational; ii) national and regional seed laws and regulations implemented; iii) sufficient quantities of breeder, foundation and certified seeds to meet required demands produced and used; iv) private sector participation in the seed industry enhanced, and; v) capacities of National Seed Trade Associations strengthened. At the national level, WASP will work with the existing governmental organizations and the private sector, including (i) National Agricultural Research Institutions for breeder seed production, conduct of variety trials and training; (ii) Agricultural Extension Services in the promotion of new varieties and fostering linkages between farmers and seed entrepreneurs; (iii) National Seed Services on coordination activities; (iv) National Seed Committees in governance issues; (v) National Variety Release Committees in the release and cataloguing of new varieties; (vi) National Seed Quality Control and Certification Agencies in carrying out the implementation of seed policy and regulatory activities; (vii) Plant Protection and Regulatory Services in carrying out general regulatory activities relating to plant health; (viii) Universities in training and development of new varieties and in seed technology, and (ix) NSTAS in the production and marketing of seeds.

- The project supports the CAADP, ECOWAP and the USAID FtF programs to improve agricultural productivity in attaining the expected 6% growth by 2015 (CAADP target). An alliance bringing stakeholders, creates synergies, facilitate complimentarily of action, mobilization and pooling resources to pursue a common vision to support the objectives of CAADP. Organizational, technical and agri-business capacities of key actors will be strengthened in variety testing, releases, maintenance breeding, production, processing, storage, quality control and certification, and marketing. The private sector will be transformed and empowered to play a key role in the delivery of certified seeds. It is envisaged that within a time frame of five (5) years, 25% of seed supplied to farmers in the sub-region will come from certified sources<sup>3</sup>. The expected impacts will include improvements in rural household incomes, through increase in average yields of target crops, and the creation of an enabling environment for well functioning private sector participation in seed business.

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS

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- Objective: Stakeholder ownership of program enhanced to facilitate program implementation.
- Expected outputs: (1) Program concept understood by key stakeholders and (2) Program implementation facilitated with stakeholder inputs.

## 3. WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

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- The meeting was organized in two days (13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September) in Hotel Belle Cote in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire. The workshop was facilitated by a Chairman, Dr. Yamar Mbodj the Executive Director of Hub Rural and simultaneously translated into French and English. The meeting addressed the issues below:
  - Presentation of program to facilitate stakeholder understanding of objective, expected outputs and implementation modalities;
  - Discussions to further deepen understanding of the program and to acquire stakeholders' views and orientation;

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<sup>3</sup> Request for Application (RFA) Number: USAID/WA-RFA-624-12-00005 entitled

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- New ideas collated from partners to facilitate project implementation.
- The meeting put emphases on plenary presentations and discussions, sharing and the development of consensus views that led to the delivery of results, conclusions, recommendations and a roadmap. The basic modes of operation were: (1) Plenary descriptive sessions with presentations to provide background information; (2) Plenary program descriptive sessions with presentation, and (3) Plenary discussions to ensure ownership and strategic orientation.

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### 4. PARTICIPATION

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- In all 60 participants attended the workshop, representing stakeholders from the following organizations: **Regional Economic Communities** - ECOWAS, UEMOA' **Financial Partner** – USAID; **CORAF/WECARD, NARIs; CGIAR** – IITA, AfricaRice and ICRISAT; **Inter-Governmental Organization** – CILSS; **NGOs** (Hub Rural, RECAO, AFFEX, AGRA, West Africa Fertilizer Program); **FBOs** – ROPPA; **Universities** – University of Ghana/WACCI; **National Seed Industry** - National Seed Committees, National Seed Certification Agencies, **Ministers of Agriculture** - Representatives from Senegal and Cote D'Ivoire) and the **Private Sector** - AFSTA, NSTAs, Seed Companies and Enterprises (Annex 2).

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### 5. OPENING

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- The workshop opening was marked by five addresses, which pointed to the importance of improved seeds in the improvement of crop productivity in the sub-region. The Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD (Dr. Harold Roy Macauley) expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries and participants who represented their organization for responding vigorously to the invitation to the workshop. He informed the house of the funds approved by the USAID to support the implementation of the ECOWAS seed regulations in improving the seed supply system and stressed the need for the numerous seed initiatives to work in creating synergies and complementarily through an alliance. He added that the program involves seven countries but will work with the 15 ECOWAS countries in the implementation of the seed regulatory framework and in sharing experiences and concluded that the workshop will provide a roadmap to facilitate program implementation.
- The Director General of CNRA (Dr Tiemoko YO) congratulated the CORAF/WECARD family for yet another great milestone in the life of the organization and commended it for the numerous projects implemented in the sub-region, including Cote D'Ivoire to improve agricultural productivity. He gave experiences of Cote D'Ivoire in the promotion of improved seeds, including seed of the plantation and industrial crops and recommended that these modest experiences be shared with the sub-region.
- The Director of Agriculture, USAID/WA, Dr. Cadence Buzzard, who was also attending the CAADP PNIA Round Table in Cote D'Ivoire thanked the Government and the people of the United States of America for the support given for the implementation of CAADP and the ECOWAP. She pointed out that a survey conducted in the sub-region revealed that seed, fertilizer and soil fertility improvement were most critical in improving agricultural productivity. This justified the development of the new USAID/WA's programs on seed and fertilizer, as well as the Feed the Future initiative. She added that the USAID is developing a new program to build resilience in the Sahelian zone to ensure sustainable improvement of food security in the zone.

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- The representative of the Executive Director of CILSS, Dr. Siaka Dembele stressed on the importance of improved seeds in achieving agricultural productivity improvement and added that the objective of the WASP is in line with the objective of CILSS. He informed the house of the role of CILSS in the development of the sub-regional seed regulatory framework and thanked the ECOWAS for the conception and implementation of the WASP to support the implementation of the regulatory framework.
- The Representative of the Ivorian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Soumaila Bredoumi, who also represented the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture apologized for the Commissioners' inability to attend the meeting due to an engagement with the NAIP in Abidjan. He stressed the importance of quality seed, which was at the centre of discussion at the Ivorian CAADP-NAIP Round Table held a day before the workshop. He stressed that the agricultural sector cannot improve agricultural productivity without good quality seed and highlighted the importance of harmonized systems in seeds and in food commodities since countries in the sub-region often trade among themselves. He commended CORAF/WECARD for the number of projects initiated in the sub-region, including the WAAPP and added that seed is central to agricultural productivity initiatives. He recommended crop intensification, irrigation, soil water management, control and mitigation of drought as additional measures in the improvement of crop productivity in the light of climate change.

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## 6. PRESENTATIONS

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### 6.1. PROGRAM RESULTS

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- The meeting background, objective, expected outcomes, approach and agenda were presented by the Director of Programmes, Dr. Aboubakar Njoya, after which participants were asked to make self introduction.
- The five program results were then presented as follows:
  - (1) **An operational and inclusive Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) established.** The presentation highlighted on the complexity of the seed system and importance of an alliance to compliment the functions, create synergies and pooling resources. Activities for the operation of the alliance were presented as (i) building an effective alliance; (ii) using the alliance for dialoguing and sharing information in developing the seed industry (iii) developing partnership arrangements to commit, (iv) developing governance, coordination and communication tools, (v) functioning of COASem for sustainability of the Alliance, (vi) support the operations ASIWA and (vii) developing database of actors and outputs.
  - (2) **Implementation of national and regional seed policies and regulations enhanced.** The presentation pointed out the modest achievement made in the implementation the sub-regional seed regulatory framework in certain countries during the period of WASA, the challenges, and the task in implementing the framework in the remaining ECOWAS countries. Activities were presented as follows: (i) building capacities for implementing the ECOWAS Seed Regulation, (ii) operationalizing the regional variety release system, (iii) establishing a seed



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import/export database system with a regional quarantine pest list (all countries), and (iv) establishing and operating the COASem and its Secretariat to support variety cataloguing.

- (3) **Quality breeder, foundation, and certified seeds produced and used.** This dwelt on the challenge of research organizations in the supply of the adequate quantities of good quality breeder seeds which has affected the production and supply of good quality foundation and certified seeds. The rank of quality seeds as the most important concern of farmers and the advantages of quality seeds were demonstrated. Activities to be implemented to improve the supply of quality breeder seeds were presented as: (i) support the NARS Seed Units to produce breeder seeds at the required quantities and standards, (ii) assist NARS in planning the volume of breeder seed required to meet demand of foundation and certified seeds, (iii) identify and provide basic infrastructure to produce BS, and (iv) create awareness of the benefit of IPR and train plant breeders on IPR issues.
- (4) **Private sector participation in the seed industry enhanced.** Increased participation of privates sector in the seed value chain, including operational organs and governance and technical and commercial activities were highlighted. Activities were: (i) increasing expertise in foundation & certified seed production, (ii) support the participation of NSTAs in National Seed Committee & VR committee, and (iii) facilitate private sector involvement in the segments of the seed value chain.
- (5) Capacities of National Seed Trade Associations strengthened (Agri-Business Development and Rural Seed Marketing)

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### 6.2. CROSS – CUTTING ISSUES

- Strategies on synergies to be created, contribution of WASP to USAID/FtF, CAADP and ECOWAP and sustainability were described. Program environmental and social safeguards in line with USAID, sub-regional and national frameworks were also presented. The Integrated Agricultural Research for Development and Innovation Platforms approaches in project implementation in the light of the complexity of program stakeholders were shared with participants. Program monitoring and evaluation tools and procedures, program management and governance plans and budget were presented as well.

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### 6.3. EXPERIENCES FROM AGRA AND ROPPA

- AGRA and ROPPA presented their experiences with respect to their interventions in the seed industry development which brought out areas of collaboration gaps to address. AGRA's presentation was related to the assistance to training of plant breeders, provision of equipment to the private sector, development of seed entrepreneurs and support to breeder seed production. ROPPA's presentation was focused on an initiative of the Senegalese Farmer Organization, *Association Senegalaise pour la Promotion de Développement à la Base* (ASPRODEB) the organization of farmers outside the National Seed Trade Association, for the production and supply of seeds to farmers in Senegal.



## 7. PRESS CONFERENCE, EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT

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- A press conference held provided a forum to share the project concept with the general public. This offered the opportunity for the representatives of the various stakeholders interact with the press on all issues of the program. The end of the workshop, stakeholders expressed their commitment to the program, and the workshop ended by conclusive statements by the Chairman, Dr. Yamar Mbodj.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ROADMAP

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- At the end of the workshop, participants' knowledge and understanding of the program concept had improved and buy-in and ownership enhanced. Participants were of opinion that the program was a good one in making impact on target beneficiaries. The following recommendations and a roadmap were proposed as complimentary information to facilitate program implementation:
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### 8.1. Alliance for a Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA)

- Conduct SWOT analyses in the target countries to facilitate program implementation ;
- Conduct baseline study, stakeholder and seed value chain analysis at regional and national levels to determine the state of seed industry, stakeholders in the value chain, opportunities they offer and needs
- Establish a national level alliance for effective policy dialogue and engagements to support the seed industry and the private sector at country level;
- Strengthen regional dimension on the alliance by involving seed industry stakeholders, through enhanced communication and collaboration and to effectively coordinate activities of the program through networking;
- Established regional and national alliances to reinforce synergies, leverage funds and ensure complementarily;
- Manage the alliance in a transparent way, with a clear definition of the role of each partner;
- To ensure sustainability, the current national seed systems, and experiences from other regions, should be considered in building the alliance;
- Lessons and experiences in the past, particularly WASA should be considered at this stage of program commencement.

### 8.2. ECOWAS Seed Regulation Implementation

- Engage States and Governments on the national alliances in the implementation of ECOWAS Seed Regulation
- Support the implementation of the ECOWAS Seed Regulation in ECOWAS countries

### 6.3. Increasing the Production of Breeder Seeds (PBS)

- Support Research Seed Units (private and public), in programming breeder seed production, with respect to the seed class and standards;
- Facilitate Research Seed Units (private and public) to acquire infrastructure and laboratory facilities to ensure the availability of breeder seeds of a large range of released varieties, in a coordinated way, using the experiences of IARCs in the region.

### 6.4. Increasing Active Private Sector Participation in the Seed Industry

- Strengthen the capacities of the privates sector to effectively engage in the seed system, through dialoguing, accrediting, intervention in the seed value chain (including foundation and certified seeds).

### 6.5. Institutional Strengthening of National Seed Trade Associations (NSTAs)

- Support the development of seed facilities, particularly infrastructure to improve farmers' access to quality seed market.
- Strengthen the NSTAs functional capacities to facilitate effective seed delivery to farmers.

### 6.6. Cross-Cutting Issues

- Leverage additional funds to support the program through RAIP, NAIP, WAAPP and other sources

## Roadmap

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1. Finalize and share workshop report	30 September 2012	CORAF/WECARD
2. Facilitate recruitment of the WASP Regional team	30 December 2012	CORAF/WECARD
3. Facilitate the selection of national coordinators and establish national offices	31 December 2012	CORAF/WECARD
4. Conduct baseline study, stakeholder and seed value chain analysis at regional and national levels	31 March 2013	WASP Regional Office
5. Initiate consultation processes for the national alliances	31 January 2013	WASP Regional Office
6. Initiate the regional alliance (ASIWA)	30 April 2013	WASP Regional Office
7. Establish governance systems (Steering committee, Governing Board) at regional and national levels	30 April 2013	CORAF/WECARD



## ANNEX 1: AGENDA



<b>DAY 1</b>		
Time	Activity	Responsible
	<b>1. Opening</b>	Chaired by ECOWAS
830- 0900	1.1. Opening Remarks	1. CNRA 2. CORAF/WECARD 3. USAID 4. CILSS 5. ECOWAS 6. Ivorian Minister of Agriculture
900- 0915	1.2. Meeting background, objective, expected outcomes, approach and work schedule 1.3. Introduction of Delegates	Director of Programs CORAF/WECARD
	<b>2. Program Results – Presentations and Discussions</b>	Chaired by ECOWAS
0915 – 1000	2.1. An operational and inclusive Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) established	B. Ntare
1000 - 1030	Coffee Break	
1030 - 1115	2.2. Implementation of national and regional seed policies and regulations enhanced	Paul Senghor
1115– 1200	2.3. Quality breeder, foundation, and certified seeds produced and used	Ernest Asiedu
1200 - 1245	2.4. Private sector participation in the seed industry enhanced	Paul Senghor
1245 – 1400	Lunch Break	
1400 – 1445	2.5. Capacities of National Seed Trade Associations strengthened (Agri-Business Development and Rural Seed Marketing)	Amadou Beye/Ernest Asiedu
	<b>3. Cross Cutting Issues – Presentations and Discussions</b>	Chaired by ECOWAS
1445 – 1530	3.1. Synergies; Contribution to USAID/FtF and CAADP and Sustainability,	Ernest Asiedu
1530 – 1600	3.3. Environmental and Social Considerations	Abdulai Jalloh/Mbene Faye
1600 -1630	Coffee Break	
1630 – 1715	3.4. Integrated Agricultural Research for Development – Innovation Platforms (IAR4D)	Sidi Sanyang
1715 – 1800	3.5. Monitoring and Evaluation	George Muluh

## ANNEX 1: AGENDA

### WEST AFRICA SEED PROGRAM ( WASP) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE AND LAUNCHING WORKSHOP

<b>DAY 2</b>		
Time	Activity	Responsible
0830 - 0845	Recap of Day 1 Proceedings	
	<b>5. Project Management – Presentation and Discussion</b>	
0845 - 0945	5.1. Program Management Plan /Key Positions/Programme Governance	
0945 - 1045	Program Budget	Jean – Rostand Kanga
1045 - 1115	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
	<b>6. Press Conference and Interviews</b>	
1115 - 1215	6.1. Press Conference	Facilitator
1215 - 1300	6.2. Interviews (Stakeholders)	Facilitator
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1400 - 1510	Expression of Stakeholder Commitment (3 minutes each)	
1400 - 1405	National Policy (Ministries of Agriculture)	A Minister of Ag.
1405 - 1410	Regional Economic Communities	ECOWAS
1410 - 1415	Farmer Based Organization	ROPPA
1450 - 1420	Private Sector	Rep. of Private Sector
1425 - 1430	NGOs (AGRA, AFFEX, Hub Rural)	Rep. NGOs
1435 - 1440	Research Organizations (CGs, NARIs)	Rep. Research Org.
1440 - 1445	Universities	Rep. Universities
1450 - 1455	National Seed Industries	Rep. Seed Industry
1455 - 1500	FARA	FARA
1500 - 1505	SRO - CORAF/WECARD	CORAF
1505 - 1510	Financial Partner	USAID
1510 - 1530	<b>Workshop Conclusions and Closing</b>	
1510 - 1520	Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations	Rapporteur
1520 - 1530	Declaration of Program Launching/Closing	Chairman

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

WEST AFRICA SEED PROGRAM ( WASP) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE AND LAUNCHING WORKSHOP

LAUNCHING WORKSHOP OF WEST AFRICA SEED PROGRAM (WASP)

13th-14th September 2012 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

List of participants

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## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### WEST AFRICA SEED PROGRAM ( WASP) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE AND LAUNCHING WORKSHOP

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