
West Africa Seed Program (WASP) and West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (PPAAO / WAAPP) – 13th December 2012.

1. Introduction

WASP is an ECOWAS initiative funded by USAID to be implemented in seven countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. Its objective is to expand the availability of quality seeds from 12 to 25% over the five year 2012-2017 period.

At the stakeholder consultative and launching workshop of WASP in Abidjan on 13 and 14th September, it was the consensus of participants to use the West Africa Productivity Programme (WAAPP) as an entry point to establish National Programme Units for the WASP. In effect the WAAPP and WASP have converging objectives, expected results and activities as regards to the seed system. In pooling their resources, these two programmes will provide the advantages of consolidating national seed strengthening efforts and leveraging resources (human, financial and institutional). The seed component of the WAAPP could fully embrace the WASP activities and the WAAPP governance system could oversee the adequate implementation of project activities and delivery of expected results.

In this vein, CORAF/WECARD organized a regional consultation meeting to identify mechanisms to ensure synergy between the WAAPP and WASP Programmes.

Participants at this meeting comprised (i) Chairpersons of the National Steering Committees; (ii) National WAAPP Coordinators, and (iii) CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat.

2. Workshop process

The meeting began with an opening speech of the Acting Executive Director, Dr. Aboubakar Njoya, followed by a presentation on program background, objectives and expected results. A presentation of WASP was then made by the Staple Crops Program Manager of CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat, which was followed by discussions among participants. These discussions helped improve participants' understanding of the program and to identify areas of possible synergies with WAAPP.

At the end of the discussions, all countries agreed on the following points : (i) issues related to institutional arrangements at the national level for the two programs, (ii) procedures for technical and fiduciary management, (iii) governance aspects and (iv) the need for dialogue between donors and concerned actors on funding mechanisms of the two programmes.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Generally, a consensus was built among the countries to consider WAAPP as an entry point for WASP. Countries agreed also that issues related WASP management, coordination and steering should be considered under the WAAPP.

Recommendations and the roadmap for the workshop are presented below.

3.1. Recommendations

Considering that the seed component of the WAAPP could fully embrace the WASP activities and

the WAAPP governance system could oversee the adequate implementation of project activities and delivery of expected results, the workshop recommended that:

- The WAAPP Unit Coordination be responsible for the coordination of WASP;
- The WAAPP steering committee examines all issues on WASP;
- The position of WASP National Coordinator to be changed into Specialist seeds incorporated within the WAAPP coordination unit.

3.2. Roadmap

Discussions among participants resulted in the development of the following roadmap:

Activities	Period	Responsible
1. Send a letter to the chairmen of the steering committee of the country to inform them that CORAF/WECARD has mobilized resources through USAID for the funding of WASP	December 18 th , 2012	CORAF/WECARD
2. Send a letter to the country to inform them about the institutional arrangement agreed during the consultation meeting	December 18 th , 2012	CORAF/WECARD
3. Send to countries revised terms of reference for the recruitment of the seed specialist which will be located in the WAAPP coordination unit	December 18 th , 2012	CORAF/WECARD
4. Send to countries the WASP document project	December 18 th , 2012	CORAF/WECARD
5. Recruit the seed specialist which will be located in the WAAPP coordination unit	February 15 th , 2013	Countries
6. Send to CORAF/WECARD, the minutes recruitment of the seed specialist	February 16 th , 2013	Countries
7. Initiate contact with IOWA State University in the area of seed technology training	January 31 st , 2013	CORAF/WECARD
8. Make an inventory of the WASA equipment retroceded to WAAPP.	December 31 st , 2012	Countries
9. Organize the 2013-2014 planning workshop for the WASP	25 th to 28 th February 2013	CORAF/WECARD /countries
10. Prepare and send contracts between CORAF/WECARD and countries for the implementation of WASP activities	1 st March 2013	CORAF/WECARD