



**2nd Biennial Africa
Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholder Conference**

**Side event on The contribution of
agroecology to climate change
adaptation and mitigation**

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Public and private investments and policies needed to
disseminate successful agroecological practices

Message from Ibrahim Coulibaly,
Chairman of the Board of Directors, ROPPA

Presented by

Karim Sawadogo
3AO Coordinator

OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

Introduction

Actions in favour of
agroecology (AE)

Constraints

Public and private
investment and
policy implications
support the
agroecological
transition (AET)

Introduction



West Africa faces many interconnected and urgent challenges. Temperatures are rising at a rate 1.5 times higher than global averages, rainfall patterns are erratic and droughts are intensifying, in a region that is largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture and has limited adaptive capacity.



This, combined with other limiting factors, is expected to increase the unpredictability of agricultural productivity, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and socio-economic and political instability.



These risk factors manifest themselves in a context where 70-80% of the population lives on less than US\$2 a day. With one of the youngest populations in the world, there are also questions about the capacity of West African economies to absorb millions of people seeking to enter the labour market.

SOME ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF AE

- Creation of the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to address droughts and food insecurity through sustainable production practices.
- High-level political endorsement of Family Farming (FF) and the sustainable food system supported by agroecology through the United Nations Decade of Family Farming;
- Creation of a World Food Systems Summit;
- ECOWAS commitment to CSA and agroecology through projects and programmes;
- Government commitment to TAE: Ghana, Senegal, BF, Mali
- Engagement of producers' organisations (PO) and civil society organisations (CSO) networks: ROPPA through the Regional Programme 2 (RP2) of its five-year plan;
- Creation of the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO) by ROPPA and other structures.
- Etc.

ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF AE FUNDING

A series of actions developed to reduce West Africa's dependence on external investment and to strengthen financing for sustainable agriculture (CPF, 2016; Goïta, 2014).

- Nigeria, Liberia and Ghana have put in place refinancing facilities at very competitive rates to support agricultural lending by private banks.
- In particular, the Institute for Research and the African Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD) and the Senegalese Social and Political Dialogue Group (GDSP) have explored approaches to reallocate part of the export revenues from different natural resources (e.g. fisheries, oil, cash crops) to the development of family farming and local value chains (GDSP, 2017).
- Development of financial services for smallholder farmer empowerment and self-financing: access to microcredit and community-managed savings, (GDSP, 2017; FAO, 2015a; HLPE, 2013).
- Commitment of regional and international organisations and agencies to promote and finance AE in the sub-region: ECOWAS with the project for agroecology (PAE), GIZ with the "Organic Agriculture Knowledge Cluster" project, FAO "Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative", EU with the "One Health Project" and "DeSira Initiative"

Factors and constraints blocking AET in West Africa

Access to finance

Access to land and water

Access to seeds and organic inputs

Access to markets

Low adoption of agroecological practices

Demonstration by evidence

The fragmentation of the movement

Political recognition

FUNDING NEEDS FOR AET



Although agroecology is adapted to the local context, it involves a number of costs for:

- Securing the plots (fencing),
- Carrying out hydraulic works
- Buying seeds, plants, small equipment,
- Developing storage infrastructure,
- Carrying out the transformation,
- Facilitating delivery and marketing.
- Training farmers in the transition period of their farming system

BARRIERS IN RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR AET



To repay their public debt in euros or dollars, West African countries have no choice but to export goods and services on the international market, mainly from the primary sector (UNCTAD, 2008).

These economic dynamics reinforce the tendency to replace a diversity of food crops with a limited number of cash crops for export - a production model that is not consistent with agroecology.

BARRIERS IN RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR AET

West African countries remain highly dependent on the funding modalities and development strategies of international organisations, bilateral donors and philanthropic foundations;

But..,

- ❑ External aid is often earmarked for specific projects, and subject to a variety of conditions, objectives and priorities set by donors.
- ❑ Private investors give priority to supporting sectors of activity, industries and actors that enable them to maximise the return on their capital investment

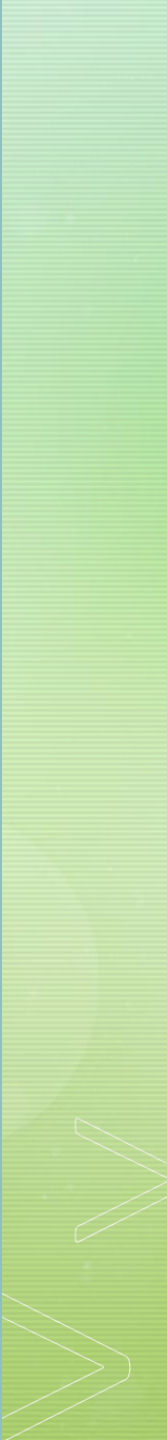
"According to an economist and former director of IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development), the goal of agroecology, which aims to reduce farmers' dependence on synthetic inputs, greatly reduces its commercial appeal to private investors.

Consequence

- Despite the commitments made in the Paris (2005) and Accra (2008) declarations, the adoption of a Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), bilateral donors have not made significant progress in aligning development assistance with the policy priorities of recipient countries (Biovision & IPES-Food, 2020; ROPPA, 2018).
- Smallholders continue to face difficulties in accessing credit (i.e. Smallholders continue to face difficulties in accessing credit (i.e. bank loans, agricultural insurance, investment funds, guarantee funds, special funds, asset management etc.) (FAO, 2012; HLPE 2013).



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Develop holistic national policies integrating agriculture, livestock, water, environment, health and economy;
 - ❑ Strengthen the mobilisation of domestic economic resources for agroecology;
 - ❑ Adapt the conditionalities of financial support to the realities of African countries;
 - ❑ Raise awareness of the advantages of agro-ecological and organic farming to encourage the masses to consume local products;
 - ❑ Strength collaborative research with farmers' groups for innovation and transformation of food systems;
 - ❑ Focus on inclusion, especially of indigenous peoples, farmers, women and youth for a better involvement of working populations.
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Thank you



DeSIRA-LIFT Leveraging the DeSIRA Initiative for agri-food systems transformation
desiralift.org | info@desiralift.org