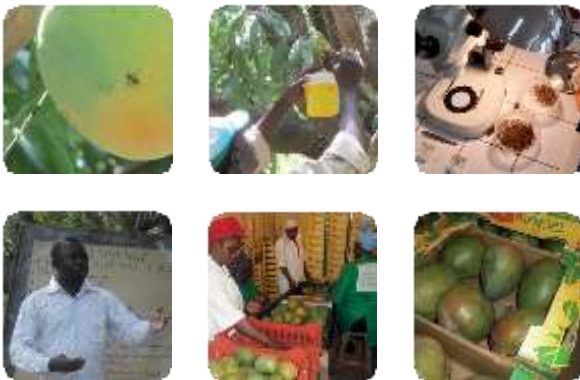




Regional Innovative fruit flies Control System in West Africa (SyRIMAO)

... For better quality and profitability of the fruits of our orchards...



Sustainably consolidate the achievements of the FFCP and scale-up!

The appearance of the invasive fly species *Bactrocera dorsalis* in West African agro-ecosystems since 2005 has caused significant damage in the horticultural sector, including the mango sector, which constitutes a food balance factor for millions of consumers at the local and regional level and an important source of foreign exchange and employment. This phytophagous insect, which ignores our imaginary borders, handicaps the mango trade by non-compliance with the phytosanitary standards of importing countries, including the European Union (EU), due to fruit flies, and leads to interceptions and heavy losses for producers and exporters in the ECOWAS region.

This is why ECOWAS and UEMOA have initiated the Fruit Flies Control Project (FFCP) with the support of the EU and AFD to manage this problem harmoniously at the regional level, coordinate and pool efforts and disseminate research results uniformly at the national level.

The implementation of the FFCP has made it possible to achieve important results which, however, needed to be consolidated, finalized and scaled. ECOWAS, EU and AFD financed a second phase: the "Regional Innovative Fruit Flies Control System in West Africa" (SyRIMAO) project. SyRIMAO's main challenge is the sustainability of the mechanisms set up in the region.

This quarterly newsletter aims to be an interface for sharing information on the project between all the players in the sector. This issue focuses on the main achievements at the start of the mango marketing campaign, which is already open in some countries.

Nata TRAORE, Regional Coordinator of SyRIMAO

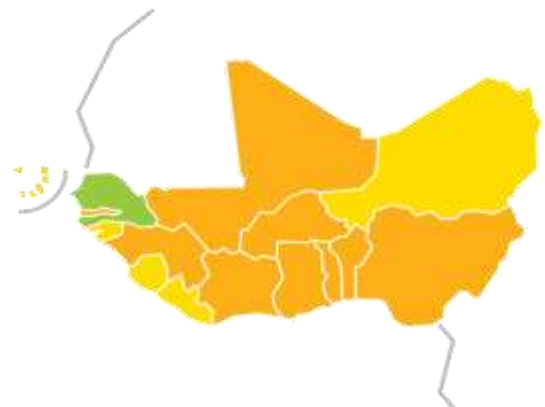
SyRIMAO NEWS

A training workshop for trainers of National Plant Protection offices (NPPOs), Professional Organisations (POs) and border post agents will be held in Bamako, Mali from April 18 to 22, 2022. Two trainers per country, including a representative of the NPPO and that of the professional organisations. These trainers will later, when back to their countries, organize training sessions for the NPPOs agents, border post agents and the staff of POs.

The first session of the SyRIMAO scientific committee will take place from May 10 to 12, 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.

As a reminder, the scientific committee is an advisory body to the project's Steering Committee (CoPil). It is responsible for issuing opinions to the CoPil, on all research action development activities of the project as a whole, concerning relevant scientific and technical quality.

In accordance with the recommendations of the 2021 Steering Committee, a Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of SyRIMAO is planned for June 2022. This STC will review the status of implementation of the recommendations of past STC and the last Steering Committee as well as the status of the 2022 AWPB implementation.



The ECOWAS Commission and its member states mobilize and combine their efforts to reduce the losses caused by fruit flies to increase the income of producers and in particular small producers!

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Research Action Development

The CNS-FL on the road to regional excellence: regional coordination of fruit fly research

One of SyRIMAO's challenges is to strengthen regional and national research systems, as well as their coordination, in order to provide producers with efficient control techniques that have a low environmental impact. The CNS-FL has established a coherent and functional network of researchers and research centers with the assistance of SyRIMAO, resulting in the implementation by the NARS of the protocols for formulating the "Ended technologies" adopted by the CNS-FL and supported by the technical committee. These formulation protocols were put in place in 2021 in Benin (under evaluation) and Senegal, where the product was successfully formulated and evaluated. In 2022, this product will be evaluated as a control technology in seven countries. The implementation of the selected protocols by the NARS allows the CNS-FL to have experimentation sites in several ECOWAS countries, ensuring its true leadership in the conduct of research on fruits and vegetables and achieving the maturation required for criterion 2-the regionalization of research programs essential to its progress towards a regional centre of excellence. The maturation of criterion 2 is reinforced by the relocation of the CNS-FL's activity of the maintenance, production of *Fopius arisanus* parasitoids to the NARS in the sub-region with the goal of mass production in 2023 for possible release in the countries' sub-region.

The march towards regional excellence also continues in the strengthening of the maturation of criterion 6-contribution to the strengthening of the SNRAs. In March 2022, with the support of SyRIMAO, the CNS-FL strengthened the capacities of the NARS by training technicians from new incoming countries and all RAD focal points from 14 countries to animate national laboratories relating to the identification of species of fruit flies and the training of producers on control methods. These trainers are then in charge of training 280 producer trainers on the control.



Product Rating in the field



Capacity Building of RAD focal points



Support for National public-private Coordination structures (ASN)

SyRIMAO strengthens the national phytosanitary inspection systems to reduce the risk of interception!

One of the challenges of the mango export campaign is the risk of mangoes interception at the borders of EU countries.

In 2021, the Ecowas region recorded 41 mango interceptions at European borders. Aside from controlling fruit flies in the orchards, one of the major challenges continues to be the quality of the phytosanitary inspection and certification system for exported mangoes implied at border posts and packing stations. The quality of the system's implementation, on the other hand, is determined by the phytosanitary inspectors in charge. As a result, during this first quarter 313 phytosanitary inspectors' capacities

at sea borders, airports, land borders, and packing stations. have been reinforced and equipped for official control, self-checking and phytosanitary certification.

In addition, small inspection equipment that meets the necessary norms and standards was purchased to equip the inspection units.



Inspectors in application session Sorting and packaging of mangoes

Finally, regional training for trainers from the new countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Niger) was organized. This training session aimed to provide new countries with trainer skills on the new EU regulation 2016/2031, and upon their return, they will organize training sessions for 120 phytosanitary inspectors on the requirements of this new regulation.

Surveillance Alert Early warning

The SyRIMAO surveillance and alert system's relocated network is now operational in eight of the 15 ECOWAS member countries. Its implementation is contingent on (i) the availability of surveillance equipment and (ii) the structure of the National Committee, which includes a strong private sector to ensure its long-term viability. Mango-exporting countries have 50 percent of their surveillance areas in orchards connected to their businesses.

As of April 7, 2022, the situation of mango development stages in areas where the system is in place and functional is as shown in the map below:



The orange dots indicate localities that have mature mangoes, the green dots show sites with small fruits, and the red dots are the regions where the mango trees are still in bloom.

Our analysis of the infestation rate is illustrated by the map below:



The red dots on the map represent areas where control action is required to increase yields. During the quarter, producers received twenty-eight (28) alerts announcing the deployment of control activities.

Coordination Monitoring Evaluation

Operationalizing the monitoring-evaluation system and strengthening the management capacities of National Committees (NC), a priority on quarter 1!

The creation of the SyRIMAO monitoring and evaluation system became a reality at the start of the year. This took the form of 14 NC monitoring and evaluation focal point training in Tsévié, Togo, from February 28 to March 4, 2022. The training was provided by the RAAF's strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation unit and focused on the MESECOPS monitoring and evaluation system. In addition to becoming acquainted with the MESECOPS system, the training enabled a better understanding of the SyRIMAO monitoring and evaluation system, the recording of the 2022 AWPBs in the MESECOPS system, and the harmonization of data collection methods and tools to inform the results indicators.



Family photo training follow-up evaluation

The coordination Unit also provided direct support to some National Committees that were in need. This involved on-site support on administrative and financial procedures (Ghana, Niger) and support on project execution, monitoring and evaluation and administrative and financial procedures (Liberia). In the case of Liberia, the team took advantage of its presence to pay a courtesy visit to the Delegation of the European Union in Monrovia. This was an opportunity for the team to discuss with the EUD the intervention strategy of the project in general, and in Liberia.



Project Team at EUD Monrovia

KEY FIGURES

- 91098T** Quantity of mangoes exported in 2021
- 41** Number of interceptions in 2021
- 114 M€** Value of mangoes sold in 2021
- 32** Number of areas covered
- 10** Number of super users trained
- 28** Number of alerts issued
- 14** Number of functional National Committees
- 313** Number of inspectors trained
- 19** Number of RAD Focal Points trained
- 05** Number of validated protocols
- 02** Number of criteria met by CNS-FL
- 21** Number of radio spots broadcast

NEIGHBOR NEWS

Benin equips phytosanitary inspectors with the new EU regulation!

From March 15 to 18, 2022, the conference room of the Le PLURIEL hotel in Parakou, northern Benin, was used for a training workshop for Border Post Inspectors on the conduct of control and the new EU standard. With the support of SyRIMAO, this training was provided by an executive from the Plant Protection Directorate (DPV) and one from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Benin station. Border post inspectors from the Departmental Directorates of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (DDAEP) were present, namely Alibori, Atacora, Borgou, Donga, and Collines, for a total of thirteen (13) participants, including three (03) women.

This training session demonstrated critical importance in reinforcing the current inspection system and promoting the mango sector. The convivial atmosphere, the richness of the exchanges, the active participation of the learners, and, above all, the precision with which the trainers responded to the questions raised during the debates were clear indicators of the training's complete success.

Dr Augustin KINDOZANDJI, SyRIMAO-Benin Project Manager

Towards a partnership between the mango Association (APROMAB) and input suppliers for producers' access to control products in Burkina Faso!

Mango production is vital to the economy of Burkina Faso. However, this production is under threat from fruit flies, which are a real scourge in terms of the extent of the damage they cause and the losses they generate.

To better control this scourge and promote the export of mangoes from Burkina Faso, SyRIMAO supports stakeholders in the implementation of a systemic approach to fly management. As part of the implementation of the 2022 AWPB, Burkina NC facilitated a consultation meeting between the mango association (APROMAB) and pesticide distributors which resulted in the development of a draft memorandum of understanding.

Mr. Lucien Sawadogo, SyRIMAO Project Manager, Burkina Faso

Family photo of inspectors training



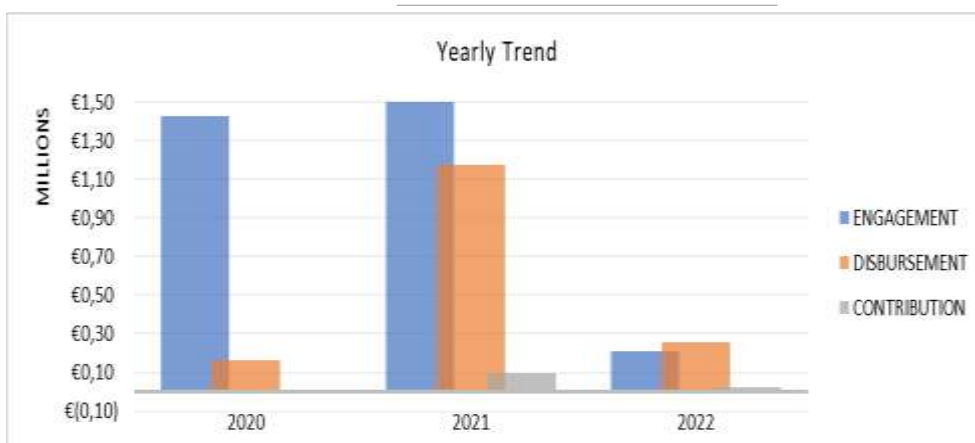
A view of the consultation meeting with stakeholders in the mango sector

IN EUROS

In the first quarter of 2022:

- 37.20% of the grant budget is committed (€4.2M)
- 37.52% of the committed amount is disbursed (€1.5M)

Financial report (in million €)



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