



THE REGIONAL RICE OFFENSIVE

OVERVIEW



The Economic Community of the West African States Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP, Decision A/DEC. 11/01/05), was adopted in January 2005 in Accra, Republic of Ghana by the Heads of West African States as part of the sectoral policies to be implemented by the ECOWAS Revised Treaty of 1993.

In line with the continental agenda, Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), ECOWAP aims to contribute, in a sustainable manner, to meeting the food needs of the people, enhance economic and social development in the sub region and reduce poverty in the Member States.

Furthermore, it aims to boost West Africa's agricultural sector, improve livelihoods and ensure food and nutrition security. To support the strategic directions of the agricultural policy, the ECOWAS Commission launched several initiatives, which include the Regional Rice Offensive.

PREAMBLE

In recent years, food consumption has shifted to rice in Sub-Sahara Africa where it is the largest source of calories, and especially in West Africa where the increasing preference and demand far outstrips the supply that is possible from domestic production. This unprecedented rise in the consumption of rice has been attributed to rapid urbanization, higher purchasing power, changes in diet pattern and population growth.

In 2017, 10.06 million hectares of land was harvested with over 21 million MT yield output of paddy (ECOAGRIS, 2017). Even though, the local production of rice has increased gradually, it covers only 60% of current demand and the yield growth does not match the increasing population growth of the region. The total milled rice produced in West Africa in 2017 was about 14.3 million MT, while the domestic demand was 23 million MT (ECOAGRIS, 2017). The shortfall was compensated for through importation of 9.5 million MT of rice.

ECOWAS regional offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of rice production in West Africa program was approved by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in June 2014 to ensure that demands are met through local production and reduce significantly rice importation by year 2025.

CONTRIBUTION OF RICE OFFENSIVE TO ECOWAP

The program is planned for 10 years and the overall contribution to ECOWAP is to attain self-sufficiency in rice production by

2025

Specifically, the regional rice offensive contributes to:

Achieving Rice Self Sufficiency by 2025

ECOWAS MS becoming Rice Exporters by 2025



STRATEGIC AXES

Four strategic areas of intervention were identified to address the main challenges of the regional rice economy. These axes aim to support actions defined by the national and regional strategies, in order to effectively achieve and maximize the expected results.

	AXES	EXPECTED RESULTS
1.	Sustainably Increase Rice Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of quality seeds in sufficient quantity • Facilitate producers' access to improved seeds • Access to fertilizers is facilitated
2.	Process and Promote Local Rice Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative processing technologies and processes are adopted and disseminated • Processing methods are modernized • Local rice is normalized and standardized • Promote local rice consumption
3.	Promote the Regional Local Rice Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate structural reforms are carried out • Trade facilitation actions are promoted
4.	Improve the Rice Development Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of institutions and regional actors are strengthened • Gender and environmental aspects are considered.

FUNDING:

The three main sources of funding are:

- ECOWAS and UEMOA
- ECOWAS Member States
- Development Partners and the Private sector



PARTNERS:



ECOWAS Commission

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development

River Plaza Annex - 496 Abogo Largema Steet, Central Business District PMB 401
Abuja FCT – Federal Republic of Nigeria