



ECOWAS Commission
Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture
Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development

Concept Note

**2023 ECOWAS REGIONAL AGRICULTURE JOINT SECTOR
REVIEW (RJSR)**



A. Introduction

The Joint Sector Review (JSR) is a process by which progress in implementing jointly agreed sectoral goals and targets is reviewed in an inclusive and evidence based manner. JSRs are a means of actualizing mutual accountability which occurs when stakeholders hold one another accountable for mutually agreed goals and targets. JSRs are primarily aimed at building a learning culture in sector policy processes in an inclusive manner. As a means of strengthening the agriculture policy process under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), the African Union has been encouraging and providing support to African countries towards the practice of carrying out JSRs. Presently, a number of African countries conduct JSRs annually.

In September 2020, ECOWAS became the first region in Africa to carry out a JSR at the regional level. Its implementation was guided by the AU guidelines for carrying out JSRs and supported by a Regional JSR (RJSR) steering committee (chaired by the ECOWAS Commission) and a secretariat in the commission. The JSR steering committee is comprised of the 6 key stakeholder groups in the sector – the government, non-state actors, farmer organizations, agriculture researchers, formal private sector and development partners (see Annex A1 for their terms of reference). ECOWAS is now preparing to conduct a second RJSR which will equally be overseen by the steering committee.

B. Objectives


The broad objectives of a JSR are to,

- “assess the performance and results of the agriculture sector
- assist the government in setting sector policy and priorities
- assess how well state and non-state actors have implemented pledges and commitments” (Bahiigwa et al, 2013)

The JSR is aimed at serving as a “management and policy support tool for inclusive stakeholder planning, programming, budget preparation and execution, monitoring and evaluation, and overall development of the sector” (Bahiigwa et al, 2013). JSRs are intended to contribute to the planning process in order to support the achievement of common goals and targets.

C. Approach

ECOWAS 's JSR is being implemented in the context of the ECOWAS Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) which is compliant with the CAADP and the MALABO declaration. It will be guided by the ECOWAP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The RJSR will involve a review of the performance of the sector as a whole as well as a review of selected issues



which require consensus building. One of the principles to be followed in the JSR is the use of evidence to guide discussions. As such, all issues to be discussed will be preceded by the presentation of evidence on each issue. The RJSR will also provide an opportunity for the 6 stakeholder groups to dialogue on their roles in achieving the region's food and nutrition security objectives as outlined in the ECOWAP.

The RJSR will follow the pattern of the maiden RJSR by having pre-RJSR stakeholder meetings for each of the 6 stakeholder groups. This will enable the 6 groups discuss and aggregate perspectives as members of the same group. Their perspectives on overall progress as well as other reports presented will then be collated by their representatives and presented in the main RJSR. These pre-RJSR meetings will be online in nature and will be for 1 day and will require translation. They are to hold in the second half of May 2023. The main RJSR itself is planned to be for 2 days and shall be a hybrid meeting. **The RJSR is scheduled to hold on 14-15 June 2023 at REIZ Continental Hotel, Abuja, NIGERIA.**


D. Specific issues to be covered

1. Sector wide review:

- a. *Review of sectoral results.* This will highlight an overview of how the sector has performed on key sectoral indicators. The indicators in the ECOWAP M&E framework which include all the Malabo indicators will be used to assess performance (see Annex A2 for the indicators). Other related indicators which can assist in explaining performance can also be included. This review will cover the following and a background report will be prepared on it for the RJSR:
- a. Trends in policies and the policy and institutional environment
 - b. Funding, inputs and services for agricultural growth
 - c. Agricultural production and trade
 - d. Poverty and food and nutrition security
 - e. Conclusions and recommendations for improved food and nutrition security

The report will assess progress in these areas in the context of the Malabo targets. A review team of in-house staff and consultants will produce the report which will be reviewed by the regional M&E working group and steering committee in an online meeting prior to being finalized.

- b. *Review of institutional roles and performance.* This segment of the review will discuss the roles that are presently being played and need to be played by the 6 stakeholder groups in order to achieve the goals and targets in MALABO declaration. It will be based on the ECOWAP M&E activity report prepared by



the DARD, ECOWAS Commission. The report will also review progress on the RAIP projects.

2. Selected issue for special review

During a meeting in October 2022, the steering committee selected a special topic – Trade performance of countries – for review. The aim of reviewing trade performance is to see what can be learnt from better performing countries in order to improve overall performance. A presentation will be made on this topic and will be followed by stakeholder discussions.

E. Targeted participants

A JSR is expected to be inclusive with a balanced representation of all stakeholder groups. The 6 main stakeholder groups and the 3 levels of political administration (continental, regional and national) are expected to be represented in the workshop. Care will also be taken to have a good representation of the 2 genders, the 4 agriculture subsectors, non-farm operators in the value chain as well as the key stakeholders required to discuss the selected topics. Effort will be made to include all stakeholders groups amongst the participants.

F. Expected outputs and outcomes

The JSR process is expected to produce the following outcomes:

1. Improved stakeholder awareness of recent progress in implementing the ECOWAP and the MALABO
2. Stakeholder recommendations on policy and operational issues in the sector in view of recent trends
3. Stakeholder recommendations on the special topic reviewed.
4. Subsequent internal review by stakeholders of their plans and operational budgets for 2023/2024, where necessary, in view of the findings and agreements reached at the RJSR.

G. RJSR Program outline

A. Indicative Program for Pre-RJSR Stakeholder group workshop

1. Workshop opening
2. Presentation on sector wide progress
3. Presentation on Trade in West Africa
4. Discussion of the 2 reports
5. Summary of key outcomes in the last pre-RJSR stakeholder workshop

6. Group discussion on key priorities actions for the group to implement in 2023 – 2024 (as well as key priorities for the region as a whole in the period)
7. Workshop closing

B. Program for RJSR Workshop

	Day 1	Day 2
Early Morning	Opening Good will messages by the 6 stakeholder groups. Presentation on Overview of sector wide progress and Trade in West Africa	Break out groups to discuss key priorities for 2023/2024 in general (in consideration of Day 1 presentations)
Late Morning	Presentation on institutional roles	Feedback from the breakout sessions (Panel discussion on the general issues by the leaders of the 6 groups)
Early Afternoon	Presentation by leaders of the 6 stakeholder groups on their perception of progress, challenges in the last 12 months and priorities for the next 12 months (the presentations will discuss the 3 reports above)	Panel discussion continues (with general discussion from other participants)
Late afternoon	Presentation on Review of Country NAIPs Implementation progress	Next steps and closing

H. References

Bahiigwa, Godfrey, Greenwell Matchaya and Samuel Benin (2013) Mutual Accountability and Joint Sector Reviews in the Implementation of CAADP. Workshop Presentation. Dakar, Senegal

ANNEXES

A1. Terms of Reference for the JSR Steering Committee

- Ensure that the JSR holds successfully annually
- Manage the entire process of the JSR in a way that follows the AU JSR guidelines and principles. They are to ensure that the following steps in the regional JSR are successfully implemented
 - Government (ECOWAS) formally authorizes the JSR
 - Set up a JSR steering committee with their TOR
 - Establish a JSR secretariat
 - Develop terms of reference for the JSR
 - Hold JSR Steering Committee meeting/JSR Inception workshop
 - Mobilize resources
 - Constitute review team
 - Undertake the review
 - Prepare for and carry out the JSR workshop (Prepare list of invitees etc)
 - Draw up implementation and follow-up plan for the recommendations from the JSR
 - Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations
 - Share lessons from the JSR with others (locally and internationally)
- Work with a JSR secretariat in order to manage the process

A2. ECOWAP/CAADP/MALABO Indicators from ECOWAP M&E Framework

Result	No	Indicator
1.1 Increased economic opportunities and Reduced Poverty levels	1.1.1	Reduction rate of poverty headcount ratio, at national poverty line (% of population),
	1.1.2	Reduction rate of poverty headcount ratio at international poverty line (% of population)
	1.1.3	Poverty gap index at national line
	1.1.4	Poverty gap index at international line
	1.1.5	GDP per capita (constant Local prices)
	1.1.6	Household final consumption expenditure per capita (constant local prices)
	1.1.7	Employment rate
	1.1.8	Number of jobs created per annum by age group and gender
	1.1.9	Human Sustainable Development Index

1.2 Improved and more sustainable Food and Nutrition security and resilience	1.2.1	Proportion of the population that is undernourished (% of the country's population)
	1.2.2	Prevalence of underweight (% of children under 5 years old)
	1.2.3	Prevalence of stunting (% of children under 5 years old)
	1.2.4	Prevalence of wasting (% of children under 5 old)
	1.2.5	Growth rate of the proportion of Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women
	1.2.6	Proportion of 6-23 months old children who meet the Minimum Acceptable Diet
	1.2.7	Food Import dependency ratio
	1.2.8	Percentage of farm, pastoral, and fisher households that are resilient to climate and weather related shocks
1.3 Reduced national and regional inequality	1.3.1	Income inequality level
	1.3.2	Share of poorest quintile in income and food consumption
2.1 Increased agriculture	2.1.1	Growth rate of the agriculture value added, in constant US dollar
	2.1.2	Agriculture production index
	2.1.3	Growth rate of yields for the 5 national priority commodities, and possibly for the 11 AU agriculture priority commodities
	2.1.4	Growth rate of agriculture value added, in constant US dollars, per agricultural worker
	2.1.5	Growth rate of agriculture value added, in constant US dollar, per hectare of agricultural arable land.
	2.1.6	Fertilizer consumption (kilogram of nutrients per hectare of arable land)
	2.1.7	Growth rate of the size of irrigated areas from its value of the year 2000.
	2.1.8	Growth rate of the ratio of supplied quality agriculture inputs (seed, breed, fingerlings) to the total national inputs requirements for the commodity.
	2.1.9	Proportion of farmers having access to Agricultural Advisory Services.

	2.1.10	Proportion of farm households with ownership or secure land rights.
2.2 Increased intra-African regional trade and better functioning of national & regional markets	2.2.1	Growth rate of the value of trade of agricultural commodities and services within Africa, in constant US dollars.
	2.2.2	Trade Facilitation Index
	2.2.3	Share of intra-ECOWAS trade in total agricultural trade
	2.2.4	Ratio of Agriculture exports to Agriculture GDP
	2.2.5	Share of processed agriculture exports in total agriculture exports
	2.2.6	Domestic Food Price Volatility Index
	2.2.7	Reduction rate of the gap between the wholesale price and farm gate price
2.3.Expanded local agro-industry and value chain development inclusive of women and youth	2.3.1	Share of agriculture production that is processed
	2.3.2	Reduction rate of Post-Harvest Losses for (at least) the 5 national priority commodities, and possibly for the 11 AU agriculture priority commodities.
	2.3.3	Percentage of youth that is engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains
	2.3.4	Agriculture contribution to the overall poverty reduction target
	2.3.5	Proportion of rural women that are empowered in agriculture
2.4 Improved management of risks in the agriculture sector	2.4.1	Proportion of population that is covered by social assistance, social protection, social insurance and labour programs
	2.4.2	Existence of government budget-lines to respond to spending needs on resilience building initiatives
	2.4.3	Budget lines (%) on social protection as percentage of the total resource requirements for coverage of the vulnerable social groups
2.5 Improved management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture	2.5.1	Share of agriculture land under sustainable land management practices

3.1 Improved Effectiveness and Inclusiveness in policy design and implementation processes	3.1.1	Existence of and Quality of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination body.
	3.1.2	CAADP Process Completion Index
	3.1.3	Country Biennial Report submission
3.2 Improved Effectiveness and Accountability of Institutions including improved M&E of policies and commitments	3.2.1	Existence of inclusive institutionalized mechanisms and platforms for mutual accountability and peer review.
	3.2.2	Hunger and Nutrition political commitment index
	3.2.3	Percentage of population satisfied with political governance
	3.2.4	Extent of Monitoring in the agriculture sector
	3.2.5	Percentage of Agriculture sector wide M&E reports produced compared to planned number
	3.2.6	Percentage of Joint sector reviews (JSRs) held compared to planned number
3.3 Strengthened capacity for evidence based planning, implementation & review	3.3.1	Evidence-based policies, supportive institutions and corresponding human resources.
	3.3.2	Number of professionals per 1000 farmers
3.4 Improved multi-stakeholder alignment and partnerships around adopted agriculture policies and programs	3.4.1	Percentage of adopted regional policies that the country has harmonized its national policy towards
	3.4.2	Percentage of adopted regional instruments that the country has harmonized its national policy towards
	3.4.3	Share of government's internal resources in the total expenditure made on the NAIP
	3.4.4	Total contributions towards NAIPs and the RAIP by national (local) development partners
	3.4.5	Share of international development partners in the total expenditure made on the NAIP
3.5 Increased public and private	3.5.1	Public agriculture expenditure as share of total public expenditure
	3.5.2	Public Agriculture Expenditure as % of agriculture value added.

investments in agriculture	3.5.3	ODA disbursed to agriculture as % of commitment (ODA).
	3.5.4	Ratio of domestic private sector investment to public investment in agriculture
	3.5.5	Ratio of foreign private direct investment to public investment in agriculture.
	3.5.6	Total investment in agricultural value chains as % of AgGDP
	3.5.7	Proportion of men and women engaged in agriculture with access to financial services.
	3.5.8	Percentage of commercial bank loans advanced to the agriculture sector
3.6 Increased capacity to generate, analyze and use data, information, knowledge and innovations	3.6.1	Existence of an operational country SAKSS
	3.6.2	Index of capacity to generate and use agriculture statistical data and information (ASCI)
	3.6.3	Total Agricultural Research Spending as a share of AgGDP.