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TECHNICAL LAUNCHING & CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE ECOWAP REVIEW (2015 TO 2025)

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA



ECOWAP@25 REVIEW



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Background and Context

Adopted in 2005, the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) remains the principal framework for guiding agricultural development, governance, and transformation in West Africa. Designed as the regional expression of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)—Africa’s premier continental framework for agricultural transformation—ECOWAP has been central to the implementation of CAADP principles and commitments in the ECOWAS region.

Born out of the Maputo Declaration of 2003, ECOWAP was launched two years later and has since aimed to address persistent structural challenges in the region’s agri-food systems, including low productivity, limited market integration, vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity, and weak institutional coordination. Over the past two decades, ECOWAP has guided strategic investments, institutional reforms, and capacity development efforts across all 15 Member States, with a strong focus on building productive, resilient, and inclusive agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors.

Since 2015, ECOWAP has been implemented in alignment with the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation, which ushered in a results-driven approach anchored in mutual accountability, public investment, and enhanced resilience. National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) have served as key instruments to domesticate and operationalize ECOWAP/CAADP commitments at national and regional levels.

While significant progress has been made in reducing poverty, promoting regional trade, and investing in food security initiatives, major challenges persist—including climate change, economic shocks, geopolitical instability, demographic pressures, and shifts in consumer habits. These evolving dynamics call for a renewed, innovative, and inclusive policy framework.

In this context, and as the current ECOWAP cycle (2015–2025) draws to a close, the African Union has adopted the Kampala Declaration (2025) and a new CAADP Strategic Action Plan (2026–2035). These continental commitments reaffirm the ambition to:

- Increase Africa’s agri-food production by 45%,
- Reduce post-harvest losses by 50%,
- Triple intra-African trade in agri-food products, and
- Raise the share of locally processed food to 35% of agri-food GDP by 2035.

These targets require ECOWAP to be reviewed and reoriented to address emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities, particularly in digital innovation, youth employment, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable financing, while remaining fully aligned with Agenda 2063 and the CAADP transformation agenda.



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A Decade of ECOWAP Implementation: Key Milestones and Lessons Learned

Over the past decade, ECOWAP has generated tangible results across multiple strategic areas, underscoring its relevance as a catalyst for agricultural transformation in West Africa:

- **Productivity and Innovation:** More than 500,000 producers have benefited from climate-smart agriculture programs, achieving yield increases of up to 80%, substantial reductions in post-harvest losses, and the sustainable management of over 90,000 hectares of agricultural land.
- **Resilience and Nutrition:** The Regional Food Security Reserve has mobilized more than 74,000 metric tons of cereals to assist vulnerable populations during food crises. Nutrition-sensitive interventions have supported over 7,000 households, while school feeding programs have provided meals to more than 32,000 students across the region. Additionally, the Regional Nutrition Agenda was officially adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, reinforcing the region's commitment to improved food and nutrition outcomes.
- **Market and Trade Integration:** The implementation of the Common External Tariff, harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, and the rollout of digital platforms such as TOAM and MAOC have enhanced intra-regional trade. Monitoring tools like the EATM Scorecard and the Rice Observatory have improved data-driven decision-making and market coordination.
- **Policy, Governance, and Institutional Strengthening:** Frameworks such as ECOWAP MEALS, MESECOPS, the Cadre Harmonisé, Biennial Reviews, and the Donor Group have institutionalized transparency, accountability, and policy coherence. Regional legal and technical instruments were developed for disease control, seed certification, and livestock traceability.
- **Inclusivity and Youth Empowerment:** Through targeted grants, entrepreneurship support, and training initiatives (notably via the Songhai Centre), youth and women have been actively integrated into priority value chains across the 15 ECOWAS Member States.

These achievements reaffirm ECOWAP's role as a cornerstone for food sovereignty, rural development, and agricultural resilience in the region.

The ECOWAP@25 Review Process

As the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) approaches its 20-year milestone and the 2015–2025 implementation cycle draws to a close, the ECOWAP@25 Review marks a critical turning point to redefine West Africa's agricultural vision in light of emerging challenges and continental imperatives. This review is not only a moment for stocktaking—of achievements, gaps, and lessons—but a forward-looking opportunity to align with the African Union's Post-Malabo Agenda process, which sets out to establish a new 10-year agricultural strategy for the



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continent (2026–2035). Anchored in the principles of participation, ownership, and accountability, the ECOWAP@25 Review will engage a wide range of stakeholders through technical assessments, thematic consultations, and policy dialogues to shape a renewed regional policy that is ambitious, inclusive, and responsive. It will consider climate resilience, agroecological transitions, demographic shifts, and technological opportunities, while leveraging the momentum of the Kampala Declaration to ensure consistency and complementarity with the next phase of CAADP under Agenda 2063. Ultimately, the review will inform the design of ECOWAP+35, a revitalized framework that deepens regional integration, enhances food sovereignty, and accelerates sustainable transformation in the agri-food systems of West Africa.

Objectives of the Regional launch

The main objectives of this meeting are to:

- Officially launch the ECOWAP Review process (2015–2025) at the regional level
- Reflect on achievements, challenges, and lessons from the last decade of ECOWAP implementation
- Present and validate the methodological framework and roadmap for the review process
- Align ECOWAP review objectives with Kampala Declaration and CAADP 2026–2035
- Consult stakeholders on visions and expectations for ECOWAP@35
- Mobilize multi-stakeholder commitment and resources for an inclusive and evidence-based review

Key Deliverables

- A shared understanding of policy performance from 2015–2025
- Consolidated stakeholder perspectives and expectations for ECOWAP@35
- Preliminary alignment with continental targets and Kampala Declaration
- A validated strategy, methodology, and budgeted roadmap for the ECOWAP Review
- A record of commitments from stakeholder groups to support the process

Proposed Design and Structure of the ECOWAP@25 Review Launch

The ECOWAP@25 Review is being conducted at a pivotal moment for West African agriculture, as the region seeks to consolidate the past decade of progress and chart a renewed path toward 2035, in alignment with the African Union's Post-Malabo Agenda. The process is deliberately structured around a sequenced and inclusive approach, designed to ensure both technical depth and political ownership across all levels.

It begins with the official launch on 24 May 2025 through a hybrid means, a moment of political and strategic significance that formally engages all stakeholders, governments, regional institutions, development partners, producers, non-state actors, and the private sector in a



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participatory and forward-looking process. This is immediately followed by a technical session from 26 to 29 May 2025, during which experts, practitioners, and decision-makers will agree on alignment with continental priorities, formal commitments to support the process, a clear strategy, roadmap, and methodology for ECOWAP@25 review.

The validated strategy, roadmap and methodology will guide a comprehensive ECOWAP@25 review and establish a clear pathway for shaping the region's agricultural priorities over the next ten years.

Recommended Participants

The meeting will bring together representatives of the following national and regional stakeholders:

- ECOWAS Member States
- African Union institutions
- Regional organizations
- Farmers' and producers' organizations
- Private sector actors (agribusiness, chambers of commerce)
- Civil society and non-state actors
- Youth and women's networks
- Technical and Financial partners
- Research institutions and academia
- Media and communication professionals
- ECOWAS Institutions



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Agenda

Day 1: Monday, 26 May 2025

Time	Activity	Lead
08:30am – 09:00am GMT	- Arrival of participants	
	WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, OFFICIAL OPENING, AND LAUNCH OF THE REVIEW PROCESS	
09:00am - 10:00am GMT	- Welcome address	Commissioner Massandje Toure-Litse Economic Affairs & Agriculture of the ECOWAS Commission
	- Goodwill remarks by representatives of stakeholder groups	Private sector, Farmers, Government, Development Partners, Non-State Actors, Women, Youth, and Researchers
	- Official opening of the meeting and technical launch of the ECOWAP Review process	Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire
10:00am - 10:45am GMT	- Presentation of the Background, objectives, and expected results of the regional workshop - Presentation of the agenda - Few announcements	ECOWAP M&E, Director of Agriculture & Rural Development, ECOWAS Commission
10:45am - 11:30am GMT	- FAMILY PHOTO - Tea Break	Logistics team
	SESSION 1: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2015-2025)	
11:30am - 12:15pm GMT	- Presentation on 20 years of ECOWAP – achievements, lessons, and challenges (2015–2025)	Director, Agriculture & Rural Development ECOWAS Commission



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12:15pm - 01:00pm GMT	- Discussions and clarifications	
01:00pm – 02:00pm GMT	Lunch	
	SESSION 2: PERSPECTIVE FOR ECOWAP BY 2035	
02:00pm – 02:30pm GMT	- Discussions and clarifications on key achievements, lessons, and challenges of ECOWAP for the last ten years	Director, Agriculture & Rural Development ECOWAS Commission
02:30pm - 03:15pm GMT	- Presentation of KAMPALA DECLARATION, COMMITMENTS AND ACTION PLAN	Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of Division, Agriculture, African Union
03:15pm - 04:00pm GMT	– Presentation of the CAADP Review methodology and elements considered	Lao Kenao, CAADP Advisor, African Union
04:00pm – 05:00 pm GMT	Discussions and clarifications on the CAADP initiative and methodology	Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission Dr. Janet Edeme, African Union
05:00 pm - 05:15 pm GMT	End of Day 1	

Day 2: Tuesday 27 May 2025

	SESSION 1: ECOWAP REVIEW METHODOLOGY AND ROADMAP	
09:00am – 09:30am GMT	Presentation of ECOWAS Vision for the ECOWAP @35	Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission
09:30am – 09:45am GMT	Introduction to the task for breakout session on the region's perspective (2026 – 2035) BY STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ECOWAP M&E
09:45am – 10:30am GMT	- Group work on PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURE SECTOR	ECOWAP M&E
10:30am - 11:00am GMT	Tea Break	
11:00am – 11:45am GMT	- Group work on PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURE SECTOR	ECOWAP M&E
11:45am – 12:30pm GMT	- Presentation of draft methodology for the review process - Plenary discussion	Hub Rural
12:30pm – 01:00pm GMT	- Introduction to the task for the breakout session on the proposed	ECOWAP M&E



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	methodology	
01:00pm – 02:00pm GMT	LUNCH	
02:00pm – 05:00pm GMT	Group work on the proposed methodology (MIX GROUP FORMATION)	Hub Rural Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission
05:00 pm - 05:15 pm GMT	End of Day 2	

Day 3: Wednesday 28 May 2025

	SESSION 1: ECOWAP REVIEW ROADMAP, BUDGET, AND CONTINENTAL AGENDA	
09:00am – 10:00am GMT	- Introductory presentation on the proposed strategy and roadmap	Hub Rural
10:00am – 10:30am GMT	Plenary brainstorming on proposed strategy and roadmap	Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission
10:30am – 11:00am GMT	TEA BREAK	
11:00 am – 01:00 pm GMT	Plenary brainstorming on proposed strategy and roadmap	Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission
01:00pm – 02:00pm GMT	LUNCH	
02:00pm – 02:30pm GMT	Plenary brainstorming on stakeholder engagement	Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission
02:30pm – 05:00pm GMT	Consolidation of inputs to vision, perspectives, methodology, strategy and roadmap	Hub Rural
05:00 pm – 05:15pm GMT	End of Day 3	



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Day 4: Thursday 29 May 2025

	SESSION 1: SYNTHESIS OF VISION, STRATEGY, METHODOLOGY, AND BUDGETED ROADMAP FOR ECOWAP REVIEW	
09:00am - 10:30am GMT	Presentation of <u>Vision, strategy, and methodology toward the new policy</u> Plenary brainstorming on the vision, strategy, and methodology	Hub Rural
10:30am - 11:00am GMT	Tea break	
11:00am - 11:45am GMT	Presentation/discussion on the stakeholder engagement roadmap for the new policy	Hub Rural & DARD
11:45am – 12:15pm GMT	Presentation/discussion of consolidated budgeted roadmap	
12:15pm – 01:00pm GMT	Presentation of next steps	ECOWAP M&E
01:00pm – 02:00pm GMT	LUNCH	
	SESSION 2: CLOSING SESSION	
02::00pm - 03:00pm GMT	- Main conclusion of the meeting - Distribution of letters of stakeholder engagement - Closing remarks	Director, ARD, ECOWAS Commission Commissioner, EAA, ECOWAS



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