



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
**Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security**



# A climate-smart agriculture alliance and framework for West Africa

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## *CCAFS Outcome Case*

Partner	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
Year	2015
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Flagship	Policies and Institutions
Geographic focus	West Africa

### **Summary**

Agriculture is the backbone of West African economies, providing employment and income to about 70% of the population. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is cognizant of the important role that the sector plays for its member states and the challenges posed by climate change. Therefore, ECOWAS decided to promote Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) within its regional agriculture promotion policy, and developed a CSA implementation framework. The CSA implementation framework aims to increase productivity and farm incomes sustainably and equitably, enhance adaptation and resilience to climate variability and change, and to control and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible and appropriate.

In order to translate the aims of the CSA implementation framework into action, ECOWAS, together with partners including CCAFS launched a West African Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. The Alliance is the consultation, coordination, convergence, funding and monitoring framework of the CSA implementation framework. The Alliance brings together Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, farmer organizations, private sector, international organizations and other agencies in a voluntary and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership.

CCAFS was a scientific partner in the development of the CSA implementation framework and the Alliance. CCAFS produced a paper on the Scientific, Political and Financial Landscape of Climate-Smart Agriculture in West Africa, with inputs from scientists at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and Ibadan University. This paper was used as the background document of the high-level forum to develop climate-smart agriculture, where the Alliance and CSA implementation framework was announced. CCAFS staff members were also on the technical team of the high-level forum and backstopped the development of different background documents which enabled key decisions at the forum.

<p><b>Key facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The West African Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture and the CSA implementation framework, are key mechanisms to scale up CSA in West Africa.</li> <li>• The West African Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture has its focus on 4 convergence areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support CSA ownership, planning, implementation, funding and monitoring-evaluation</li> <li>○ Strengthen inter-sector coherence, inter-institutional dialogue, and inter-level coordination</li> <li>○ Increase resource mobilization for CSA in agricultural investment programs</li> <li>○ Enhance coordination and convergence of CSA technical, scientific, institutional, policy and financial initiatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Lessons: key elements of success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with ECOWAS enabled CCAFS to be part of the technical team and provide scientific inputs into the design of the Alliance and implementation framework.</li> <li>• The background paper produced was timely and provided a holistic picture of CSA in West Africa, covering sub-sectors of livestock, fisheries, water and forestry/agroforestry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Further reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Alliance for climate-smart agriculture launched in West Africa</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What is the state of climate-smart agriculture in West Africa?</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Related research outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zougmore R, Traoré AS, Mbodj Y, (Eds.). 2015. Overview of the Scientific, Political and Financial Landscape of Climate-Smart Agriculture in West Africa. CCAFS Working Paper No. 118. Copenhagen, Denmark: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).</li> </ul>

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