

ECOWAS efforts at promoting the rice sector in West Africa can be outlined under the following:

- 1. ECOWAS Rice Agenda
- 2. Policy Measures and Orientation
- 3. Strategic Partnership & Coordination
- 4. Stakeholders Engagement and Advicacy







ECOWAS Rice Agenda

- RICE the largest source of calories, staple and fastest growing cereal in West Africa with importation estimated at 8.1m MT in 2020 (FAOSTAT) accounting for \$3.4b in foreign exchange.
- High dependence on *rice importation, population growth, urbanization and the* **2008 food crisis** prompted the decision-making bodies of ECOWAS to develop an "Offensive" strategy to operationalize the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP).
- Rice Offensive is a flagship program and a regional response to support national rice development strategies (NRDS) of MS to achieve rice self-sufficiency by 2025.
- Production has improved but the region is yet to meet local demand from domestic production and the regional self sufficiency still at 60%.
- ECOWAS seeks to address these issues through the Rice Offensive Action Plan that aims at a sustained and sustainable rice cultivation in West Africa. Also, serving as a reference for many regional initiatives and interventions in the rice sector.

ECOWAS RICE AGENDA TOWARDS SELF SUFFICIENCY

Decision A/DEC. 11/01/05

ECOWAS Rice Offensive 2015 Regional Action Plan 2020 - 2025



Policy Measures and Orientation

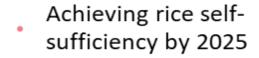
Action Plan 2020 - 2025

Policy & regulatory measures to render the rice sector competitive

- Finance and Public-Private
- Efficient trade and

- Coordination of the Inter-**Professional Organizations**
- Coordination and plan

Rice Offensive



- **ECOWAS** member states becoming rice exporters by 2025
- Achieving food security and nutrition in ECOWAS by 2025
- Achieving economic development of the rice value chain

- Partnership mechanism
- management
- Knowledge sharing and management

management of the action

The ECOWAS Rice Offensive was launched in 2015 to enable ECOWAS co-ordinate more efficiently the Member States' efforts in meeting their rice needs.

Aims to tackle a wide scope of issues ranging from high imports to production matters, to promoting local rice processing and trade promotion in the regional rice market.

Regional Action Plan was developed to accelerate the implementation of the Rice Offensive & validated in 2020



(Rice Offensive & Regional Action Plan)

AGENDA

Strategic Partnership & Coordination

- **ECOWAS** leverages on strategic alliances to implement many of the activities with several actors and institutions both at regional and national levels (15 Member States).
- These include the development of New Partnerships and Projects in support of the Regional Action Plan to implement the ECOWAS Rice Offensive and support NRDS.
 - **1. GIZ FABI Rice Measures** GIZ FABI Funds for Agricultural Policy and Innovation Objective: Supporting the implementation of the Component 1 and Activity 1.3 of the Rice Action Plan, which is *'initiate, develop and implement additional regulations to boost the rice value chain in West Africa'.* (2021 2023)
 - 2. GIZ MOVE Market Oriented Value Chains for Jobs and Growth in the ECOWAS region (2022 2024).

Objective: Strengthening the ECOWAS Agriculture Department to coordinate Member States' policies and donor interventions.

3. Establishment of ECOWAS Rice Observatory (ERO) — a multi-stakeholder platform, conceptualized and established by ECOWAS & its partners to help key actors in the West African rice sector better coordinate policy and work synergistically



Strategic Partnership & Coordination

ECOWAS Rice Observatory board structure and roles of partners & national actors

High-level Policy Coordination

- Rice Offensive Action Plan 2020-2025
- National rice strategy support
- Tariff and trade policy harmonization

Networking and Partnerships

- Resource Mobilization
- Strengthening Partnerships for agricultural transformation

Tailored technical solutions

- Policy engagement and building state capacity. for delivery
- Donor mobilization to strengthen systems fol scaling technology and integrated solutions

Infrastructure Investment and Policy

• Strengthening regional food security

• Increasing intra-regional food trade • Strengthening agricultural value chains,



CARI

Foreign, Commonwealt & Development Office

THE WORLD BANK

Observatory



Seven (7)

N

AfricaRice.

Research & Development

Enabling environment support

Rice seed sector strategy

• National rice strategy support

• Public capacity development

- Development and distribution of new Africa-suited rice varieties
- Stakeholder capacity building to achieve research-based ricesector productivity and profitability improvements

National Chapters

There are 7 seats for ECOWAS country representatives on the Board of ERO comprising mostly the private sector and public institutions.

Public and Private Sector Financing

- Increasing access to affordable finance and TA across value chain
- Support policy frameworks for more competitive value chains
- Improve commercial viability of SMEs

Value chain development & private sector investment

competitiveness and market infrastructure

- Coordination and commercialization of value chain
- TA to IsDB LLF investments
- SRP liaison to establish practice standards

IsDB 🙉

Infrastructure and capacity building

- Inputs and value chain finance
- Value chain infrastructure
- Policy and institutional environment

ICA





Stakeholders Engagement & Advocacy

a) Regional Policy Events:

- a) Collaborated with GIZ to organize a Regional Multi Actor Policy Learning Workshop for experience sharing April 2019
- b) Consultative Meeting for Mid Term Review of ECOWAS Rce Offensive and charted the road map for the development of clear actions for the region's rice sector 4-5 Feb 2020
- c) Validation Workshop for the Regional Rice Action Plan 13 Oct. 2020, Abuja (Hybrid)
- d) Engaged all stakeholders and Member States at a **Press Conference** to officially launch the Regional Action Plan for awareness & wide dissemination (10 August 2021, Abuja)
- e) Organized an ECOWAP Donor Group Meeting as a sensitization and advocacy effort to mobilize resources for the rice sector (10 August 2021, Abuja)
- **f) Regional Workshop:** Public Private Partnership Models & Financing Options in West Africa's Rice Sector (Hybrid, 16 18 Nov 2021, Lome). During this workshop ECOWAS:
 - Engaged investment and development banks, and the private sector for rice value chain development, and
 - b) Provided an overview of the opportunities and different Public Private Partnership models in the region
- b) Engaged all Member States consistently to assess the status of their respective rice sector development viz a viz the NRDS (For example, in collaboration with CARD Oct 2019 Jan 2020)

ECOWAS Rice Offensive & Action Plan Documents

The links to available documents are as follow:

- Regional Rice Offensive Factsheet (FR): https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/108
- Regional Rice Offensive Factsheet (EN): https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/95
- BROCHURE Rice Action Plan (FR) : https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/130
- BROCHURE Rice Action Plan (EN) : https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/131
- Regional Rice Action Plan (EN): https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/87
- ECOWAS Rice Offensive (FR): https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/52
- ECOWAS Rice Offensive (EN): https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/32
- ECOWAS Rice Factbook (FR): https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/49
- ECOWAS Rice Factbook (EN) https://ecowap.ecowas.int/see-document/29

