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ECOWAS ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTION OF RICE SECTOR IN WEST AFRICA

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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 Advocacy





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

ECOWAP/CAADP

Decision A/DEC.
11/01/05

ECOWAS Rice
Offensive

2015

Regional Action
Plan

2020 - 2025



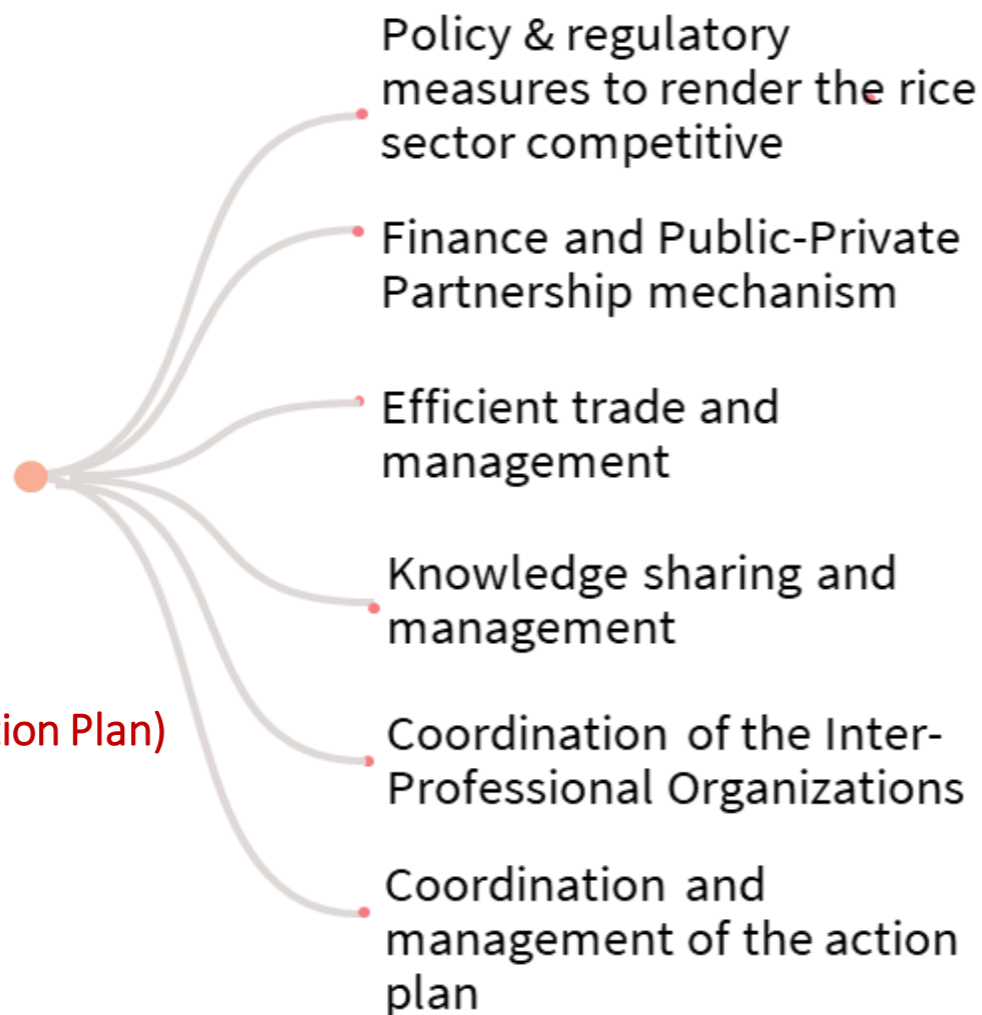
Policy Measures and Orientation

Action Plan 2020 - 2025

Rice Offensive

ECOWAS RICE AGENDA

(Rice Offensive & Regional Action Plan)



- Achieving rice self-sufficiency by 2025
- 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

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



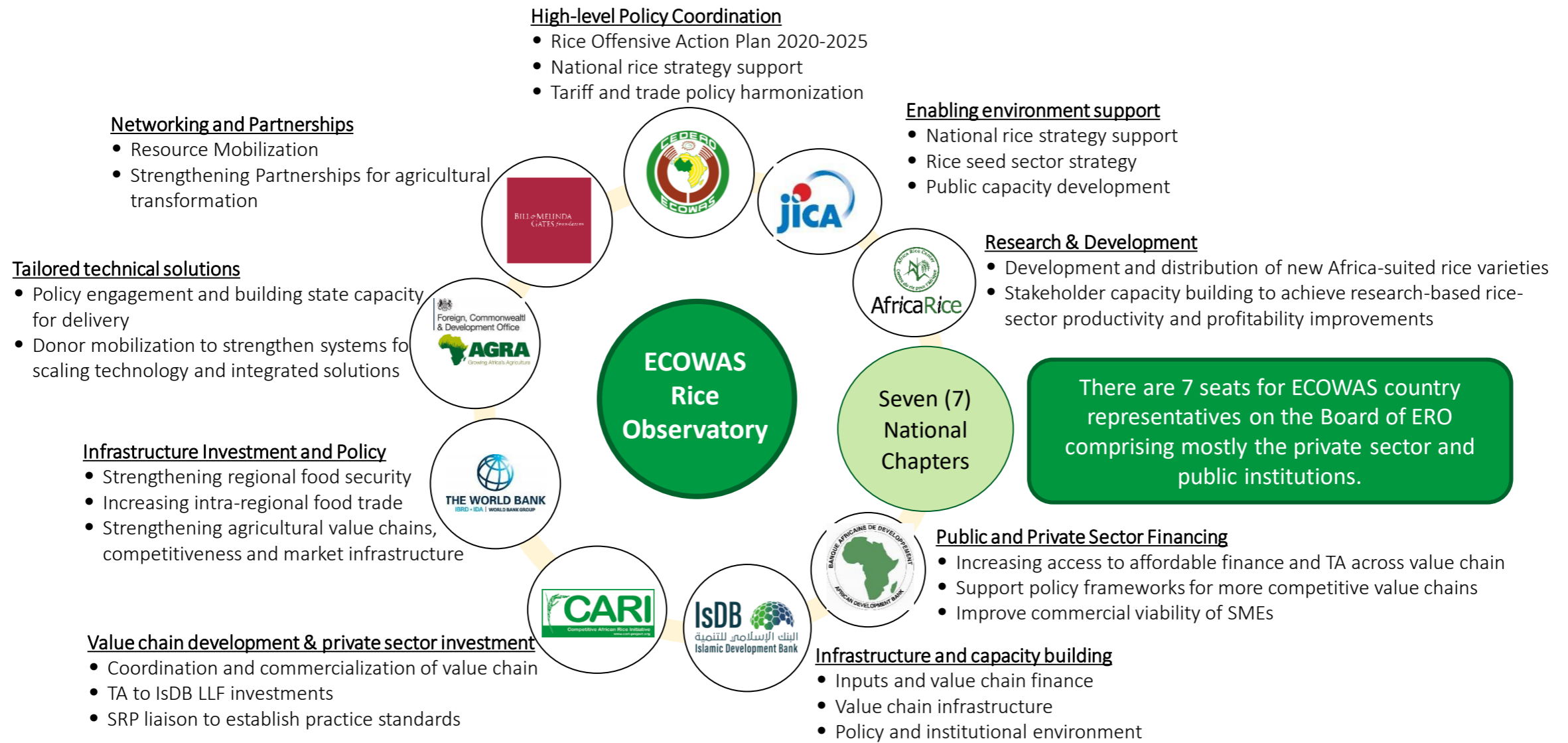
Strategic Partnership & Coordination

- **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





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 Rice 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:**
 - a) 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)



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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>

