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INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's European Development Fund

Press release

West Africa: ECOWAS supports 10 new climate-smart agriculture pilot projects launched by Expertise France

Lomé (Togo), April 7, 2021

This Wednesday April 7, 2021 takes place, **under the patronage of Mr. Sékou Sangaré, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of ECOWAS**, the launch of ten (10) new climate-smart agriculture pilot projects, selected following the second call for projects "Innovations for smart family farming in the face of climate change in West Africa" launched by Expertise France in June 2020 under the leadership of ECOWAS. The ten projects are spread over 7 West African countries (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Sierra Leone) and will be implemented over a period of 20 months for a total cost of 2.3 million euros.

This initiative was launched as part of the [GCCA + West Africa project](#), funded by the European Union, and implemented by Expertise France under the political and institutional leadership of ECOWAS, and in technical partnership with [CILSS](#).

The objective of the selected pilot projects is to finance the implementation and capitalization of **innovative local agricultural solutions** with high potential for replication and / or scaling up adaptation to climate change impacts (seed selection, climate services, agroecological practices, early warning systems) and mitigation of GHG emissions (carbon storage, dewatering by solar pumping, renewable energies in processing units, etc.) in West Africa.

Despite being the primary form of agriculture in West Africa, family farming (the main source of income and subsistence for 70% of the West African population), faces challenges to invest in sustainable production capacities and in the scaling up of innovative solutions to cope with the effects of climate change. The ten projects selected through this process attempt to directly address these constraints.

This second call for projects follows a first one launched in 2019 by Expertise France which resulted in the selection of four (4) pilot projects in Benin, Niger, Mauritania and Chad. The implementation of this myriad of actions contributes to the operationalization of the regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP 2025) of ECOWAS and to the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Member States following Paris Agreement framework.

The launching workshop, chaired by ECOWAS, gathers the participation of technical and financial partners, ministries in charge of agriculture and environment of the aforementioned countries, as well as other regional initiatives.

About GCCA+ West Africa

Funded by the European Union, the GCCA+ West Africa (GCCA+ WA/AMCC+ WA) regional project is being implemented by Expertise France under the leadership of the ECOWAS Commission and in collaboration with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). This flagship initiative is part of a regional cooperation dynamic. It aims to support the concrete implementation of commitments made by the States of the ECOWAS-CILSS area in the fight against climate change.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/GCCAPlusWA>

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List of selected projects

Main project owner	Project title
Cooperazione per lo sviluppo dei paesi emergenti (COSPE) -	Innovation in the food value chain in Cabo Verde for an ecological and solidarity economy on the island of Fogo
Associação de defesa do património de mertola (ADPM)	Agroforestry systems: a smart alternative to fight climate change on the island of Santo Antão , Cabo Verde
Fundacion Sustalde	Development of intelligent agricultural tools to improve irrigation efficiency in the West Coast region of the Gambia
Friends of the Earth Ghana	Agroforestry technical innovations to fight climate change and improve the productivity of subsistence farmers in the northern region of Ghana
A Rocha Ghana	Ensuring climate change resilience and mitigation by training self-reliant smallholder farmers in the Lake Bosumtwé landscape, Ghana
TRIAS	Project for the Introduction of Sustainable Agriculture Practices on Family Farms in Upper Guinea (PIPADEF-HG), Guinea
Research and Implementation Group for Rural Development	Project to support the sustainable palm oil sector in the Cacheu region, Guinea Bissau
NGO Tiniguena	"Tiban ankaterô": integration of cultural, agro-ecological, territorial and climatic aspects for climate resilient family farming in the Urok Islands, Guinea-Bissau
Global Shea Alliance.	Developing a model for the agroforestry exploitation of resilient shea trees in Oyo and Niger States ,Nigeria
Action Against Hunger.	Sustainable land management for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Moyamba District, Sierra Leone