I. Project Context

Country Context

Agriculture is a dominant economic sector in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), but its low productivity and growth seriously erodes the competitiveness of African products on world and domestic markets. As a net importer of cereals (i.e. rice, wheat) and livestock products, West Africa is severely affected by the current rise in global food and fuel prices. Intra-regional agricultural trade remains limited and its share of total world agricultural trade is marginal. Climate change, increasing population and degradation of natural resources are posing additional challenges to rural livelihoods in this natural resources dependent economy.

The ECOWAS members, which are all low income countries, face an urgent need for improved agricultural productivity, so as to satisfy food needs of their growing and increasingly urbanized population, to promote sustainable economic growth and reduce rural poverty, and build a strong regional agricultural market for primary and transformed agricultural products. To this end, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has initiated the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). ECOWAS has initiated a sub-regional approach through its agricultural policy (ECOWAP) and supports the formulation and implementation of harmonized National Agricultural Investment Programs.

CAADP has four pillars, the fourth one being agricultural research, technology dissemination, and technology adoption. This fourth pillar is further developed within the Framework for Africa’s Agricultural Productivity (FAAP). Managed by FARA at continental level, the mandate for agricultural research for West Africa was given to the Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricole/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), henceforth referred to as CORAF.

II. Sectoral and Institutional Context

Despite the importance of agriculture on employment, economic growth and exports, overall agricultural output growth rates have been about the same as population growth. In addition, the growth of the sector is based primarily on the extensification of production, with low productivity, high use of natural resources and low labor remuneration. Women play important roles in production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. However, they are not always well taken into account in development policies and strategies for modernizing the agricultural sector.

One of the main challenges is to satisfy the demands of a rapidly growing population that is expected to increase from 300 million in 2011 to about 500 million by 2030. The recent food, fuel and financial crisis have demonstrated the need to base food security in West Africa on the utilization of the region’s agricultural potential. This option would simultaneously contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty. There exist immediate pathways to achieve rapid growth in agriculture through greater focus on productivity enhancement; it is possible to rapidly increase yields of key commodities that represent the basis of the West African food security system. With the adoption of new variety and improved crop management practices, millet yield can be raised by 30 percent from 600 to 780kg/ha; irrigated rice systems could benefit from yield increase by nearly 50 percent, from 1,560 to 1,950 kg/ha; and cassava yield can be raised from 14 to 20 tons/ha, corresponding to more than 40 percent increase. The West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) is a two-phase, ten-year, horizontal and vertical Adaptable Program Lending (APL) to support the implementation of CAADP’s agricultural research and development (R&D) pillar, as reflected in the national agricultural investment plans and the regional mobilizing program. The overall goal of the WAAPP is to contribute to agricultural productivity increase in the participating countries. Under the first phase of WAAPP, the Board approved three series of support projects, including WAAPP-1A (Mali, Senegal and Ghana) in 2007, WAAPP-1B (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria) in 2010 and WAAPP-1C (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Togo) in 2011. While there is still a need to complete the coverage of all ECOWAS countries, with the inclusion of Guinea Bissau and Cap Verde in the program, the countries under WAAPP-1A are already at the end of the first phase of the program, and have thus requested to start their second phase.
III. Project Development Objectives
A. Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective of WAAPP-2A is to scale-up the generation, dissemination and adoption of improved technologies in the participating countries’ priority agricultural commodity areas that are aligned with the sub-region’s top agricultural commodity priorities, as outlined in the ECOWAP. In order to reach this objective, the Project will strengthen the regional cooperation in generation of technology, and scale-up dissemination and training programs focused on regional and national priority commodities.

IV. Project Description

Component Name
Component 1: Enabling conditions for Sub-Regional Cooperation in the Generation, Dissemination and Adoption of Agricultural Technologies
Component 2: National Centers of Specialisation (NCOS)
Component 3: Support to Demand-driven Technology Generation, Dissemination and Adoption
Component 4: Project Coordination, Management and Monitoring and Evaluation

V. Financing (in USD Million)

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VI. Implementation
A. Institutional and Implementation arrangements

The institutional arrangements set up for WAAPP1A are still relevant and will continue to govern WAAPP2A implementation. Each country and CORAF will maintain and strengthen the existing steering committees and project coordination units (PCUs).

At the national level the institutional arrangements are: (i) For Ghana - the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) will be responsible for the oversight of the Project; the coordination of the Project will be entrusted to the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) established by MoFA and which has been implementing WAAPP-1A; (ii) For Mali - the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) will oversee the implementation of the project by delegating the overall coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to the Comité National de la Recherche Agricole (CNRA); and (iii) For Senegal, the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) will be responsible for the implementation of WAAPP-2A. It will delegate the overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to the existing Technical and Fiduciary Coordinating Unit (UCTF) which was established by PSAOP and is implementing WAAPP-1A and GEF’s Sustainable Land Management Project.

At the regional level, project coordination will continue to be entrusted to CORAF which has already demonstrated the capacity to coordinate preparation and implementation of the three series of the first phase.

At least one-fifteenth (1/15th) of the proceeds of each participating country IDA financing will be made available to CORAF. Each country will conclude a subsidiary grant agreement with CORAF, detailing the nature of technical support and coordination expected from CORAF and the level of financial support to be provided to CORAF by each participating country. CORAF will use approximately 1/3 of the proceeds for regional coordination activities and approximately 2/3 for the regional CARGS.

Results Monitoring and Evaluation

At the country level, the respective Project Coordination Unit will be responsible for the internal monitoring of Project indicators and outcomes as defined in the Results Framework.

The NCoS in participating countries will be responsible for measuring the impact of technologies released and transferred under Component 2. To this end, the NCoS will carry out farm surveys to measure the indicators on productivity improvement and technology adoption. Such panel surveys will be conducted over the Project’s life cycle and will include both a control group and beneficiaries of released technologies. They will also perform supply chain analysis and benchmarking to identify on a regular basis any knowledge gaps and key areas for future research programs, as well as to provide an update on country progress and performance along the commodity chains in their particular areas of specialization.

External monitoring (supervision) and implementation support will be ensured by the respective Governments in close collaboration with the World Bank and CORAF.

CORAF will have responsibilities of monitoring program outcomes and impact at the regional level.

VII. Safeguard Policies (including public consultation)

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### VIII. Contact point

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