

# **Alliance for seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA)**

**Concept Note**  
**REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING**

11 – 12 April 2019  
Dakar, Senegal

## 1. Background

The West African seed industry is facing enormous challenges of production, distribution and widespread use of certified seed in the sub-region. These challenges are inherent to many constraints that can be summarized in three categories: (i) gaps in production and in the supply of quality-seeds, (ii) the low adoption by farmers of certified seed of improved varieties; (iii) an inconstancy policy for the development of the seed industry - Several policy constraints hamper the availability of improved seeds and generally prevent the development of the seed sector throughout Africa; (iii) the underdeveloped seed markets – West African seed markets are usually too small and fragmented to attract investment and commercial seeds enterprises of the same level as those that allowed the development of the seed sector in East and South Africa.

To tackle these issues, the regional seed stakeholders with the support of the regional donor project have achieved the establishment and effective operation of an all-inclusive so called Alliance for seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) relying on broad and combined effort of a wide range of stakeholders to create synergies and develop solutions to the many barriers to regional seed industry development (seed production, seed certification, seed trade/distribution and use in West Africa). . ASIWA is a platform dealing with issues of international, regional and national dimensions. The regional platform ASIWA deals mainly with strategic issues while national ASIWA platforms play mainly a tactical role in supporting and coordinating the seed development across the region and specific national contexts.

ASIWA has an inclusive approach based on the commitment of a range of private sector stakeholders (seed users, end buyers, seeds traders), research institutions (public and private) and government agencies involved in the research, production and regulation on seed. **Objective of ASIWA**

The main objective of ASIWA is to promote experiences sharing, the creation of fruitful synergies between stakeholders of the seed sector.

### **a. ASIWA Vision and Rationale**

ASIWA vision is “a sustainable, inclusive and effective platform to facilitate consultation and dialogue among West African seed industry actors, enable for expanded cooperation between the public and private seed sector stakeholders, and drive collaborative learning to increase production, supply and use of quality seed in West Africa”.

Its rationale is based on shared values between private and public actors of the seed sector to increase production and use of quality seeds by producers hence contributing to improve agricultural productivity, incomes and achievement of food security in West Africa. This logic will be realized through the following actions: (i) encourage and support partnerships between private and public actors of the seed sector in West Africa; (ii) incorporate the private sector in efforts undertaken by the authorities for seed sector development; (iii) create synergies between existing programs supporting the seed industry within ECOWAS area; (iv) support investment (public & private) in the production and distribution of seeds; (v) establish and strengthen the confidence of producers in the certified seed; (vi) coordinate stakeholders' efforts to expand and consolidate the regional market of seeds.

### **b. ASIWA Added value and Functions**

ASIWA provides a framework for stakeholders to come together and collaborate on efforts to increase production, supply and use of quality seeds in West Africa. The joint participation of private sector companies, national and regional governmental agencies and development actors ensures that ASIWA integrates the specific needs, objectives and resources of each stakeholders group members of the Alliance. Moreover, the effective involvement of stakeholders and the consideration of their specificities (in terms of demands / expectations and contributions) help ensure that ASIWA establishes an appropriate programming that actually lead to the development of the private seed sector in West Africa. The synergies and partnerships promoted by ASIWA at regional and national scales represent an opportunity to achieve greater development impacts through the optimization of resources, ideas and technologies of different stakeholders around the challenge of the production, distribution and use of quality seeds in West Africa. ASIWA considers each stakeholder as a carrier of a specific contribution

which, when put together with that of other members of the platform, results in a more effective and faster response than if each partner acting individually.

ASIWA is designed to provide five complementary functions (Figure 2). The simultaneous provision of these functions within the same framework provides an opportunity to examine issues with a systemic and integrated approach, including the consideration of similar existing initiatives and frameworks. This approach is the backbone of ASIWA and allows significant added value to efforts for the development of the seed industry in West Africa.

### **c. ASIWA achievement**

Since its launching, the 5th and 6th August 2015 in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire), ASIWA has made some achievements including (i) establishing in eight countries, strong national branches as foundation of a reliable and dynamic Regional Alliance, (ii) raising awareness of actors and stakeholders for their buy-in and commitment, (iii) national and regional meeting to discuss the seed issues and national seed planning, (iii) electronic conference on various topic and (iv) development of the seed electronic platform. Some issues are still pending and need to be addressed by the alliance, these are (i) the management of ASIWA executive committee both regional and national levels (i) the effective operationalization of the Working group to be able to propose solutions to the constraints of the seed sector and (iii) the uncertainty on ASIWA funding and sustainability.

## **2. Objectives of the meeting**

During the meeting we want to focus discussions and experiences sharing on same key issues of the regional seed sector including?

- Presentation of ASIWA concept and update
- Presentation of the findings for the landscape studies/researches conducted by TASAI and The Access to Seed Foundation, Syngenta Foundation/NML
- Sharing experiences in licensing/and commercial contract of early generation seed production between research and the private sector
- Introduction of the new varieties developed by the international seed Companies in West Africa – collaboration with the local Seed Companies and Challenges /the policy issues
- WASIX Platform: inclusive exchange on the Terms of Reference for its updating (taking into consideration the need of the various type of users.
- Updating the action plan on the following issue:
  - ▶ Strategy for facilitation private sector access to early generation seed.
  - ▶ Dealing with the seed subsidies? How to align the public sector development objective with the private sector and farmers interest?
  - ▶ Private sector quality
  - ▶ Increasing the ASIWA membership and mechanisms for sustainable funding of ASIWA

## **3. Expected results**

- Strategic orientations and priority actions for sustainable access to breeder seed developed
- Inclusive framework for licensing contract model for sustainable access to improved materials
- Successful model of inputs subsidies shared
- Terms of reference and pathways towards the WASIX e-platform validated
- Revamping the regional steering, monitoring and inclusive dialogue (CROSDI) committee of ASIWA
- Key recommendations and a roadmap developed in transitioning the Alliance to the private sector within one year.

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## **4. Methodology**

The methodology to be used during the workshop will include presentations in plenary sessions followed by group work.

The following presentations will be made during plenary sessions to frame debates: (i) overview of ASIWA and challenges; (ii) potential activities to accelerate and consolidate the deployment of ASIWA at national and regional levels. (iii) presentation of other partners experiences in the seed sector and alliances

implementation. These presentations and plenary discussions will allow participants to deepen their understanding of different topics presented, to consolidate their thoughts but also to share their analyses and experiences on the issues discussed.

Group work will then be organized during the second day to operationalize priority activities of the action plan ( i) Strategy for facilitation private sector access to early generation seed; (ii) Dealing with the seed subsidies? How to align the public sector development objective with the private sector and farmers interest? (iii) How to increase ASIWA memberships and mechanisms for sustainable funding of ASIWA.

The results of group work will be presented in plenary sessions to allow participants to share and validate the appropriate suggestions and recommendations made by the groups. The terms of reference for group work will be prepared and shared before the start of each session.

The meeting will be professionally facilitated by Hub Rural and a French-English simultaneous translation will be used during plenary sessions to facilitate communication during the workshop. The various working documents will be sent to participants two weeks before the start of the workshop.

## **5. Date and venue**

The meeting will be held in Dakar, (Senegal) the 11th and 12th April 2019

## **6. Participants**

The meeting will convene around 40 participants. This will include the ASIWA Executives, AFSTA, ROPPA, regional and international seed companies. the NSTA, Hub Rural, ECOWAS, CORAF, USAID, World Bank, AfDB, etc. Representatives of the West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFA), the TASAI, the Access to Seed Foundation, will be attending the meeting to share their experiences.

7. Tentative Agenda		
Time	Activity	Responsibles
<b>DAY: 1: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>		
8:00-08:30	Participants and Registration	CORAF Assistant
8:30-09:00	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TASAI and The access to seed foundation, Syngenta Foundation/NML</li> </ul>	Welcome speech -CORAF USAID – World Bank- AfDB ECOWAS on behalf of the RECs (UEMOA, CILSS)– AFSTA representative Opening speech (ROPPA, presentient of ASIWA)
<b>Session 1 : Plenary presentations on the overview of ASIWA and partners activities and experiences</b>		
9:00-09:15	Presentation of the objectives and expected results (Concept note)	CORAF – PAIRED
9:15-09:45	Presentation of ASIWA concept – Achievement and Challenges	CORAF – PAIRED
09:45 – 10:00	Presentation of the experience of WAFA	WAFA President
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break	CORAF Assistant
10:15– 10:30	TASAI: findings of landscape study in west Africa in Seed business Index	TASAI
10:30 – 10:45	The Access to seed Foundation: findings on seed companies and seed cooperatives performances in West and Central Africa	The Access to seed Foundation
10:45 – 11:00	Syngenta Foundation: (Seed2B): Seed Policy analysis in West Africa	SYNGENTA
11:00 – 11H30	Discussion	
11:30 – 11:45	SeedCo: the licensing contract for new material transfer	SeedCO
11:45 – 12:00	AGRA: (PIATA and Seed4impact): Addressing the private sector challenges	AGRA
12:00-12:15	AfricaSeed : Seed gateway platform	AfricaSeed
12h:15-13h:00	Discussion	Chairman
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:00-14:45	Presentation and validation of the TOR of WASIX, e-platform Revamping	CORAF - PAIRED
<b>Session 2: Group work</b>		
14:45-15:00	Presentation of ToR of the Group Work and constitution of the Groups	CORAF - PAIRED
15: -17:30	Group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Group 1:</b> Strategic orientation and priority action for sustainable access to breeder seed developed</li> <li><b>Group 2:</b> Inclusive framework for licensing contract model for sustainable access to improved materials</li> <li><b>Group 3:</b> Successful model of inputs subsidies efficiency (how to reconcile the development objective of government and public agencies with the private sector interest)</li> </ul>	Group chairman
17:30	End of Day 1	
<b>DAY: 2: 12 April 2019</b>		
8:00-08:30	Participants Registration	CORAF Assistant

<b>8:30-10:30</b>	Group work (Tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group 1:</b> Strategic orientation and priority action for sustainable access to breeder seed developed</li> <li>• <b>Group 2:</b> Inclusive framework for licensing contract model for sustainable access to improved materials</li> <li>• <b>Group 3:</b> Successful model of inputs subsidies efficiency (how to reconcile the development objective of government and public agencies with the private sector interest)</li> </ul>	Group Chairman
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>Session 4: Plenary session – Group restitution and discussions</b>		
<b>10:45-13:00</b>	Group (1, 2, 3) Restitution and Discussion	Group rapporters and Chairman
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	<b>CORAF assistant</b>
<b>Session 5: General conclusion – commitment et Way forward</b>		
<b>14:00-14:30</b>	Revamping the regional steering, monitoring and inclusive dialogue (CROSDI) committee consists of ASIWA	Chairperson
<b>14:30-14:45</b>	Road Map	Chairperson
<b>14:45 – 15h 30</b>	Conclusion and Closing remark	CORAF ECOWAS – UEMOA CILSS – USAID AFSTA - ROPPA