

THE SAHEL & WEST AFRICA WEEK

COTONOU, BENIN

4-8 DECEMBER 2017

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for Planning and
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MI KOUABÔ – O FO NAKAYO!

Welcome to Cotonou. We are pleased to welcome the 2017 edition of the Sahel and West Africa Week to Benin.

The eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the improvement of the well-being of the most vulnerable people – in both rural and urban areas – are priorities for our government. The number and diversity of policies and programmes underway that aim to improve food security and promote good nutrition illustrate this ambition. The second generation of the National Agricultural Investment Programme for Food and Nutrition Security (NAIP-FNS), and the Multisectoral Programme for Food, Health and Nutrition (PMASN) demonstrate the Beninese government's on-going commitment to find structural solutions to food and nutrition challenges.

Indeed, Benin has made substantial progress in its fight against hunger. It has reduced its hunger index score by 20 points, from 44.5 in 1992 to 24.4 in 2017. Our country is on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal – SDG 2 – by 2030.



Nevertheless, we know that there is still an enormous amount of work left to do. The latest surveys (MICS, 2014) have shown us that one out of every three children across the country continue to suffer from stunting. That is a call to action for us to make more long-term structural investments – especially in a regional and international macro-economic context characterised by recurring security and migration crises. Food, nutrition and resilience issues are inherently transnational and they are a part of the solution to security and stability challenges. Benin and other countries in the region must join forces to reinstate these issues at the centre of development agendas.

Given the multi-factorial and multi-sectoral nature of food, nutrition and resilience issues, we are also seeking to improve the efficiency of our interventions. We have established monitoring, dialogue and outreach institutions, including the National Food and Nutrition Council – the 2017 Sahel and West Africa Week's focal point institution.

The special event dedicated to Benin on 7 December will be an opportunity to share some of our concrete commitments. Our hope is that these discussions will offer our countries in the region an opportunity for mutual sharing and peer learning.

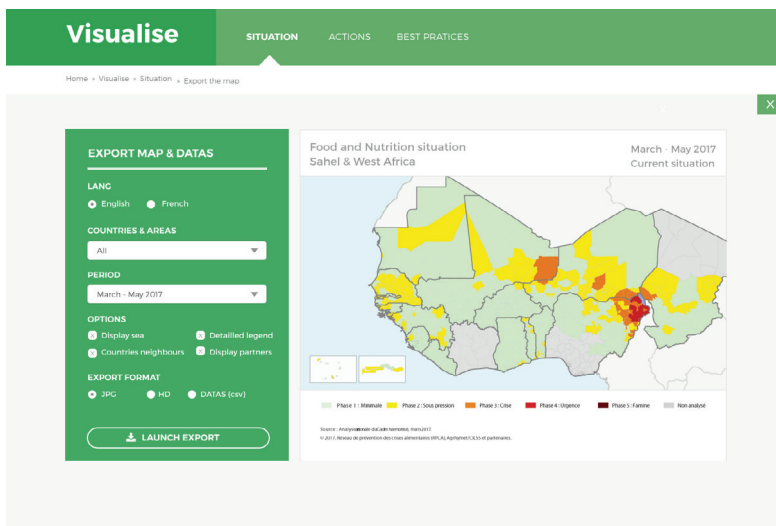
Let's be resourceful, inspired and generous – let's share our knowledge and enjoy the intense moments of informal discussion and networking throughout this Week, which will undoubtedly be rich in debates and discoveries.

AGRICULTURAL, FOOD & NUTRITION SITUATION (FNS)

MONDAY 04 DECEMBER 2017, 08:00-17:30

The outlook is promising: the 2017-18 harvests in the Sahel and West Africa are projected to be average to good. Markets have been generally well stocked during the 2017 lean period. The food and nutrition situation has been improving with the arrival of the first cropping season and early harvests. It remains, however, critical in the Lake Chad basin, northern Mali and the Liptako-Gourma area due to the ongoing security crisis. Some 3.5 million children may experience severe malnutrition by the end of the year.

During Session 1, RPCA members will analyse the food and nutrition situation and take stock of the implementation of crisis response plans. Drawing on the debate, they will elaborate recommendations for policy makers. In order to make the analysis and data more accessible, the RPCA has developed an information-sharing platform, which will be presented during the meeting. Session 2 will review priority activities of the Network, including the second external evaluation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC).



INNOVATIVE & TERRITORIAL APPROACHES (FNS)

TUESDAY 05 DECEMBER 2017, 08:30-17:45

National analyses often mask pockets of poverty, hunger and malnutrition concentrated in specific geographic areas. Disparities across and within countries underline the need to develop innovative approaches that promote bottom-up and place-based interventions while empowering local actors. Similarly, local and spatial dynamics, specific to the region, call for a fresh perspective on the West African food system and opportunities for its development. Major transformations in the food economy must be harnessed to ensure job prospects for millions of young people.

Two panel discussions:

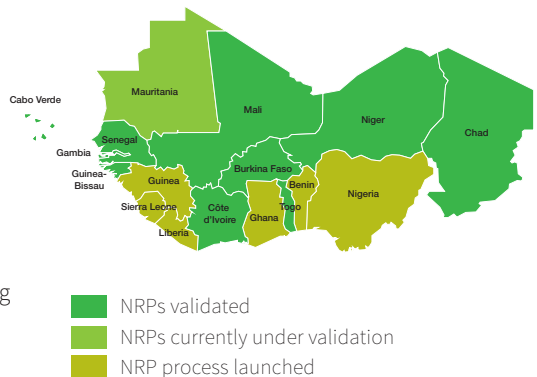
- **From theory to action - implementing a territorial approach:** the debate will focus, in particular, on issues around capacity-building and empowering local actors in decision-making, notably, women and young people. The session aims to capitalise on the many on-going initiatives in the region.
- **Employment potential in the food economy:** this panel will examine the profound changes in the domestic market and their impact on job creation in food value chains for millions of young people.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RESILIENCE (AGIR)

WEDNESDAY 06 DECEMBER 2017, 08:30-12:00

The 5-year anniversary of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) offers a timely opportunity to seek renewed political engagement in AGIR. Ten countries have adopted and started implementing their national resilience priorities (NRP-AGIR) and are now well placed to capitalise on and share best practices. AGIR stakeholders will underscore the importance of staying focused on improving food security, nutrition and resilience, in a context when migratory, security and stability issues are taking precedence.

November 2017



SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA WEEK EVENTS

ARC, CILSS, CORAF, GOVERNMENT OF BENIN AND PARTNERS

 RESTRICTED MEETING

CLIMATE CHANGE RISK MANAGEMENT

MONDAY 04 DECEMBER 2017, 17:30-19:00

Six West African countries are currently operating in the African Risk Capacity insurance pool. Participants will share their experiences using the ARC mechanism as an innovative

natural disaster risk financing tool. The panel discussion will also explore how the *Africa Risk View* software and the *Cadre harmonisé* tools might complement each other.

SEEDS FOR RESILIENCE & REGIONAL SOLIDARITY

WEDNESDAY 06 DECEMBER 2017, 14:30-18:00

Following the tragic events surrounding the Ebola epidemic that shook the region from 2013-15, CORAF, a regional institution that co-ordinates agricultural research, invested in rebuilding agricultural seed stocks to help thousands of affected farmers. In addition to evaluating this operation, participants will consider the region's

preparedness and its improved ability to cope with similar crises. CORAF and its partners continue their innovative research on drought-tolerant crop varieties in order to strengthen local communities' resilience and promote climate-smart agriculture. The event will be an opportunity to share the lessons learned from CORAF's work.

COMBATTING MALNUTRITION IN BENIN

THURSDAY 07 DECEMBER 2017, 09:00-13:00

The Government of Benin has been investing to decrease malnutrition in the country through multidimensional interventions for several years. The "school meal" programme

contributes to both children's nutrition and education as well as to food crop production. This government investment also highlights the role that local communities play in managing malnutrition.

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

THURSDAY 07 DECEMBER 2017, 14:00-17:00

The region's main technical and financial partners (TFPs) are meeting to discuss the varied ways they support agriculture, food security and

nutrition in the region. Through this dialogue, they aim improve their co-ordination so that interventions can be more effective.

CILSS PARTNERS COMMITTEE (CPC)

FRIDAY 08 DECEMBER 2017, 08:30-16:30

The 17th CPC annual meeting brings together CILSS and its partners to discuss their working

relationship and identify current and future priorities. They will review progress made in implementing CILSS reforms.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

04 MON

05 TUE

06 WED

07 THU

08 FRI



33RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FOOD CRISIS PREVENTION NETWORK

EVENTS

ARC, BENIN, CILSS, CORAF AND PARTNERS

08:30

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09:00-09:40

OPENING CEREMONY

10:00-16:00

Session 1
AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATION (FNS)

16:15-17:30

Session 2
PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

17:30-19:00

SPECIAL EVENT
CLIMATE CHANGE RISK MANAGEMENT

08:30-17:45

Session 3
INNOVATIVE & TERRITORIAL APPROACHES TO FNS
PANEL 1

FROM THEORY TO ACTION - IMPLEMENTING A TERRITORIAL APPROACH

PANEL 2

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY



08:30-12:00

Session 4
SENIOR EXPERTS' GROUP OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RESILIENCE (SEG-AGIR)

12:00-13:00

CLOSING CEREMONY

14:30-18:00

SPECIAL EVENT
SEEDS FOR RESILIENCE & REGIONAL SOLIDARITY



08:30-16:30

CILSS PARTNERS COMMITTEE



09:00-13:00

SPECIAL EVENT
COMBATING MALNUTRITION IN BENIN

FOOD AND NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS AND INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES



14:00-17:00

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

POLICY DIALOGUE: AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY



(R) RESTRICTED MEETING

ABOUT THE WEEK

Organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC), the Sahel and West Africa Week is a key event for the region's development stakeholders. This annual gathering is mainly focused on dialogue around food and nutrition issues but also offers a space

for informal exchanges, networking and building partnerships. The 2017 edition will take place at the Golden Tulip Hotel Diplomate in Cotonou. Hosted by the Government of Benin, the Week is held under the patronage of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions.