



European Union Food Facility Programme– IFAD-ECOWAS-ICRISAT





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Programme presentation

To address food security problems and soaring prices for basic commodities, in December 2008 the European Union launched a Food Facility totalling €1 billion spread over three years, from 2009 to 2011. Under this initiative, the regional programme IFAD-EU-ECOWAS Food Facility was established with a budget of €20 million. The regional programme covers a number of countries in West Africa.

Context

To assure food security and protect the population from recurrent crises, countries dependent on foreign aid for much of their food supply, such as Benin, Mali, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, have designed strategies and programmes to support food security that are intended to increase food production through the intensification of strategic crops such as rice, cassava, yams and ground nuts, and widespread use of selected seeds and mineral fertilizers. The main objective of ICRISAT – component B of the programme – is to support the production of high and stable yields of millet and sorghum for smallholder farms.

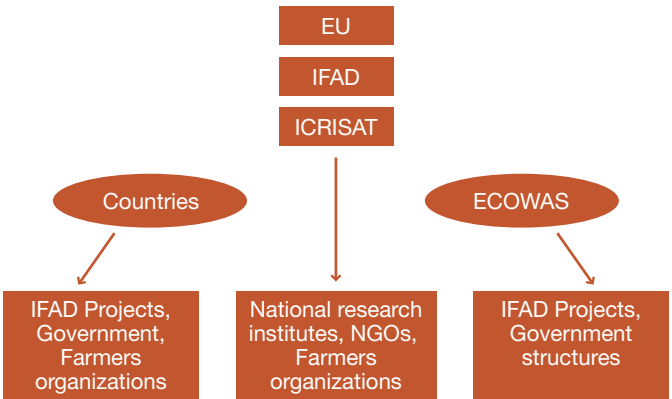
ECOWAS, which is component C of the programme, is equipping itself with tools to support and manage regional interventions to mobilize the ECOWAP mechanism and, within the same framework, to manage agricultural sector information.

Programme objectives

The EU-IFAD food facility programme is intended to:

- Improve the availability of and access to agricultural services and inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers.
- Increase agricultural production capacity and meet the basic food requirements of the most vulnerable groups.
- Meet specific equipment and economic infrastructure requirements on a small scale.

Partners and components of the Food Facility Programme



Launch of programme activities

The programme was launched at a workshop in Dakar on 12 and 13 November 2010. The objectives of the workshop were to provide all stakeholders with a greater insight into the programme and to complete the planning documents and logical frameworks. The workshop was attended by representatives of the participating institutions (EU, IFAD, ECOWAS and ICRISAT) and the countries involved (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Senegal).

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Programme implementation

Implementation of programme activities was structured as follows:

- Shared planning of activities through the preparation and approval of annual work programmes and budgets, procurement plans, and plans for communication and raising awareness of the activities to be undertaken.
- Operational implementation of activities by project teams in the field, in cooperation with the strategic partners under agreements or work contracts.
- Support for implementation, monitoring and supervision of activities by IFAD, through field missions, workshops and steering committees.

Programme sustainability

The following factors will be critical in ensuring the sustainability of the operational arrangements designed and implemented under the Food Facility Programme:

- Response to demand by governments and beneficiaries.
- The cost-effectiveness of seed production.
- Definition of a reference framework by all sector stakeholders.
- Capacity-building activities.
- Utilization of local knowledge in designing intervention strategies.

For more information on this programme, please consult:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/food-facility_en.htm
<http://www.ecowas.int/?lang=fr>
<http://www.icrisat.org/>
<http://www.IFADfrique.net/>
<http://www.ifad.org/>