



25 February 2019

(19-1079)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## **OUTLOOK ON ECOWAS IMPLEMENTED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 2018 – MARCH 2019**

### **COMMUNICATION FROM ECOWAS-USAID SENIOR SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) STANDARDS ADVISOR**

The following communication, received on 22 February 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The USAID/West Africa Regional Mission works to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to advance their vision to create an economic union and common market. In line with this objective ECOWAS is implementing many agreements designed to support the free movement of goods and people throughout the region. In standards, a USAID/West Africa: Cost Reimbursement Implementation Letter no 2 signed between CILSS and USAID/West Africa, was extended. It is through this agreement focus will be on the continuity of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards.

1.2. With reference to the approved 2018-2019 work plan and in view of improving and strengthening SPS activities in the ECOWAS region, the following activities were implemented during the period of October 2018 - March 2019.

#### **2 PLANT HEALTH AND PLANT PROTECTION**

2.1. The recent introduction of the fall armyworm (FAW) as well as the discovery of the new alien invasive pest identified in West Africa and its growing threat to agriculture and food security have caused much concern in about 44 countries in the sub-Saharan region, including 15 West African countries. The FAW is a crop-destroying worm and can cause high damage to maize, rice, sorghum, vegetables. These attributes have made the control of FAW a challenging task. There have been efforts to sensitize, build capacity for the pest identification, knowledge sharing, etc. Overall, development of long-term management options has mobilized international experts and the national capacities of affected countries and raised general attention to caterpillar attacks on various crops. In the sub-region of West Africa, a taskforce of National Plant Protection Officers and partners of West Africa sub-region was established to ensure joint management of the pest and others.

##### **2.1 Second West Africa National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) and Partners Taskforce meeting to address regional priorities and review of IPPC instruments including the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM14) pre-preparation, functioning and harmonization of regional priorities, 18-20 February 2019, Cotonou, Benin**

2.2. The second annual meeting of the Regional Task Force of NPPOs and Partners of West Africa was held from 18 to 20 February 2018 in Cotonou, Benin. It was organized by ECOWAS in collaboration with the Plant Protection Directorate of Benin, with the participation of representatives of NPPOs of all 15 member States, ECOWAS partner institutions and regional bodies, in particular UEMOA, USAID West Africa Office, CILSS, AGRHYMET Regional Center, CORAF, FAO, IITA-Ibadan and USDA-APHIS. The objectives were: (i) to review the phytosanitary situation of countries; (ii) to discuss the regional priorities of the taskforce; (iii) to identify priority issues on the agenda of

the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures CMP14; (iv) inform participants about TCP/RAF/3705 on Strengthening ECOWAS coordination and communication on Fall Armyworm's (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) monitoring and impact assessment in West African countries.

2.3. It was noted that significant progress has been made at country level in updating and validation of the regulated pests lists. Further, the priority activities were identified and agreed as well as the priority matters of interest for the sub-region on the agenda items to be discussed at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM14) from 1-5 April 2019 in Rome, Italy.

### 2.1.1 Key recommendations

2.4. At the end of this second taskforce meeting, the following recommendations were made:

- To regional institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS)
  - Conduct a regional study of countries' phytosanitary capacity, extracted priorities, translate them into a regional capacity building project;
  - Establish and operationalize the regional structures provided for by Regional harmonized Regulation C/REG/21/11/10 and operational rules for the safety of plants, animals and food in the ECOWAS region;
  - Organize the pre-preparation meeting for CMP15 in 2020;
  - Strengthen the capacity of NPPOs of member States on notifications;
  - Accelerate the process of pesticide registration and availability;
  - Accelerate the WAPRC operationalization process.
- To member States
  - Establish and operationalize the national structures provided for in Regulation C/REG/21/11/10 harmonizing the structural framework and operational rules for the safety of plants, animals and food in the ECOWAS region;
  - Establish, formalize and operationalize National SPS Committees, as appropriate;
  - Accelerate the process of pesticide registration and availability;
  - Devote more financial resources to phytosanitary and SPS activities.

## 2.2 Third States Consultation Meeting for the Establishment and Animation of the West African Pesticide Registration Committee (WAPRC), 19-24 November 2018, Bamako, Mali

2.5. The objectives of this regional meeting were: (i) to validate the harmonized registration tools for the establishment of the West African Pesticide Registration Committee (WAPRC) in May 2019; (ii) to evaluate the implementation status of the roadmap and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation meeting held from 23-26 May 2018; (iii) to review the inputs of Wetland states to the draft pesticide registration application; (iv) to reach an agreement upon the content of the draft application dossiers for the registration and propose their adoption by the three signatory IGOs of the cooperation agreement in the field of pesticides; (v) to consider the inputs of Wetland states to the draft WAPRC procedural manual.

2.6. The outcomes of this regional meeting were the following:

- The content of the registration dossier for pesticides for agriculture use was reviewed and inputs provided by Wetland countries. The other five documents were not reviewed because of lack of time;
- The implementation status of the road map was discussed and it was agreed that the inter-governmental organizations of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS make meaningful inputs into the ongoing process for the operationalization of the joint pesticide registration body;
- The meeting requested for member States to continue reviewing the documents submitted and studied at this meeting so as to take into account the views of other national experts;
- To transmit to the member States the harmonized final version of the documents and tools after the inputs of member States before the effective implementation of WAPRC;
- The inputs of the Wetlands to the draft procedure manual was not done due to limited time available. However, it was agreed that the member States will review the document during the national consultation process early 2019;
- The draft procedure manual to be finalized during the national consultation meeting in the member States.

### 2.2.1 Key recommendations

2.7. The following are the recommendations:

- To the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Organize by no later the end of February 2019, consultation meetings in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Guinea as part of the implementation of their National Committee on Pesticide Management;
  - Establish rapidly the Coordination Unit provided for by the Tripartite Agreement, no later than the end of January 2019, as a pre-requisite for holding the first WAPRC in May 2019;
  - To support the NCPMs financially to organize national retreat workshops to finalize, in a short time, the review and validation of the draft documents and tools necessary for the joint registration of pesticides.
- To the ECOWAS Commission
  - Embark on resource mobilization for the implementation of the Harmonized Pesticide Regulation as expressed in the Tripartite Agreement.

## 3 FOOD SAFETY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### 3.1 Aflatoxins reduction in maize and maize by-products in Burkina Faso (STDF/PG/566)

3.1. This is a project grant (STDF/PG/566) with the financial support of STDF. It was approved during the October 2018 STDF Working Group meeting and implementation arrangements are ongoing. The overall objective of this PG is to develop the maize sector with a view to sustainably improving its contribution to food security, quality and nutritional aspects, access to markets, poverty reduction and accelerated growth of the national economy. The total budget is US\$ 845,862 with the contribution of STDF of US\$ 544,402.

3.2. The expected results are:

- Good practices of production, harvesting, drying and storage of maize adapted to local conditions are inventoried and recorded in simple "technological package" fact sheets understandable for the actors, edited in French and in another most spoken local language;
- Critical points of technological control leading to the contamination of maize by aflatoxins are identified, evaluated and efficient management options are proposed to stakeholders;
- Producers, collectors, wholesalers, traders, extension and quality control agents, consumers are informed and trained on good agricultural practices, compliance with Codex standards and the quality approach;
- Burkina Faso's capacity to meet quality requirements for maize (low-level aflatoxin compliant with regional and international (Codex) standards) is strengthened and improved.

## 4 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

4.1. The ECOWAS Commission take this opportunity to thank USAID Regional Office, West Africa, USDA, European Union, FAO, AU-IBAR, SADC, EAC and all partners and donors for their continuing support in advancing SPS issues in the ECOWAS region and beyond. Also want to call for more collaboration, support for future implementation of actions to better address SPS matters in the region.

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