



3 October 2019

(19-6377)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

OUTLOOK ON ECOWAS-IMPLEMENTED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF JULY – NOVEMBER 2019

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

The following communication, received on 1st October 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 that 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 July - November 2019.

2 PLANT HEALTH AND PLANT PROTECTION

2.1 Training workshops on Keys tools and steps for development, implementation and management of an Electronic Phytosanitary Certification system for import and export of plants and plant products.

2.1. The Training workshop on "Keys tools and steps for development, implementation and management of an Electronic Phytosanitary Certification system for import and export of plants and plant products" was organized with the support of USDA-FAS Washington in cooperation with USDA-APHIS Dakar, USAID West Africa, ECOWAS and Ghana Plant Protection and Regulatory Services (PPRSD). Representatives of National Plant Protection Offices from the 15 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) attended the training. The main objectives were: (i) to help countries better understand electronic certification system's principles, advantages and challenges; (ii) to learn key tools and steps to follow for a migration to E-certification system; and (iii) to establish a "Regional e-Phyto Taskforce group" to start working together to address this new challenge.

2.2. The following key recommendations were made:

- To send a communication to ministers of member States for promotion and use of e-phyto;
- The ECOWAS Commission and its technical and financial partners to continue assisting member States with funding support towards the implementation of the e-phyto and other related activities;

- To assist member States in resolving issues arising in relation to the development and implementation of their national e-phyto projects;
- Member States should start working on the implementation e-phyto activities;
- In the next meeting of the regional taskforce (schedule for December 2019), updates on progress made should be presented by the ECOWAS Regional e-phyto Taskforce Group.

2.2 Regional conference on sustainable management of FAW in the Sahel and West Africa: 10-12 September 2019, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

2.3. 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, knowledges 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.

2.4. From 10–12 September 2019, a regional meeting was convened by the Government of Burkina Faso, with the support of FAO, CILSS, UEMOA, ECOWAS, USAID, CORAF and other partners. The objectives of the meeting were: (i) to exchange experiences and lessons learned from the recent FAW invasion in Africa; and (ii) to mobilize a community of experts to provide technical and policy advice for effective control at regional and national level by member States. The meeting brought together 346 participants from 21 countries, including the 17 CILSS-UEMOA-ECOWAS countries, and Southern, Central and Eastern Africa; university professors and researchers. NGOs, technical and financial partners (TFP), farmer apex organizations, private sector, ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, G5-Sahel, CORAF, FAO, CABI, ICIPE, IITA.

2.5. The following key recommendations were made:

- To ECOWAS Commission and member States
 - To conduct sensitization actions during the International Year of Plant Health in 2020;
 - To accelerate the harmonization of phytosanitary regulations to strengthen regional coordination in the management of FAW and beyond, other crop pests;
 - To continue advocacy for greater mobilization of human, material and financial resources for an effective and sustainable response to FAW and other crop pests in the Sahel and West Africa;
 - To operationalize the phytosanitary emergency fund through a mechanism for levying a percentage on exports from member countries;
 - To strengthen human resources for the conduct of research activities and the implementation of operational actions;
 - To promote an integrated pest management (IPM) approach and scale up already proven control methods.
- To technical and financial partners
 - To support member States and regional economic community in the region in the search for solutions against the scourge of the fall armyworm which poses a serious threat to the food and nutritional security and food safety of the Sahelian and West African populations.

2.3 Participation to 2019 IPPC regional workshop

2.6. A representative of the ECOWAS Commission participated in the 2019 IPPC regional workshop for Africa held from 2-6 September 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya. Experience was shared through a presentation on "Regional Implementation of IPPC Regulations and Guidelines: A case study of ECOWAS' activities and West Africa member States".

3 FOOD SAFETY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

3.1 Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa 23rd meeting

3.1. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa convened its Twenty-third Session (CCAFRICA23) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2 to 6 September 2019 at the kind invitation of the Government of Kenya. Thirty-two member Countries, five member Countries and one member Organization from outside the Region, seven Observer organizations, and the representatives of FAO and WHO, attended the Session. It is to note that some African delegations were supported by USDA-FAS, USAID, FAO, WHO, ECOWAS, AU-IBAR.

3.2. The delegate of ECOWAS participated in the panel presentation on AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA – A QUEST FOR TRADE IN SAFE FOOD. Detailed information on the discussion and the conclusion can be found in the CCAFRICA23 report available on the Codex website.

3.2 Participation to FAO regional workshops

3.3. A representative of the ECOWAS Commission participated in the food safety training provided by FAO to the member States in August and September 2019.

4 GENERAL CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

4.1. The ECOWAS Commission takes this opportunity to thank its technical and financial partners, AU-IBAR for their continuing support in advancing SPS issues in the ECOWAS region and beyond. It also wants to call for more collaboration, support for future implementation of actions to better address SPS matters in the region.
