WAHO/ROPPA/BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL FOODS FROM THE BIODIVERSITY OF WEST AFRICA’S TRADITIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

REPORT OF

A REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF SMALL-SCALE FARMER ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCHERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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West African Health Organization (WAHO)
PREAMBLE

**West African Health Organization (WAHO)**
The West African Organization is a specialized Public Health Agency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). WAHO coordinates the ECOWAS nutrition Forum and so is charged with facilitating effective food and nutrition policies and programmes and ensuring food and nutrition security in the sub-region. Local foods from the region’s traditional food systems play a fundamental role in meeting this objective. This explains WAHO’s very active leadership role in this initiative that aims to enhance the production, marketing and consumption by the population, of nutrient-rich foods from the region’s ecosystems in order to ensure adequate nutrition, improved health and livelihoods of populations within ECOWAS Member States.

**Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricole de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (ROPPA)**
The pillars of this initiative are the small-scale farmers represented by ROPPA – a network organization of small-scale food producers that operate in 12 out of the 15 ECOWAS member states, and implements activities at both national and regional levels. Since its re-structuring in 2002, ROPPA has been actively involved in consultations for the development and implementation of West Africa’s regional agricultural policies and programmes. It is also very active in advocacy on behalf of small-scale food producers and working to strengthen their capacities as well as implementing public awareness programmes. At national levels, ROPPA coordinates farmers’ networks and activities, empowers farmer organizations by ensuring their credibility as well as visibility of their network activities. ROPPA also provides additional support in the form of training and capacity development to women farmer cooperative groups.

**Bioversity International**
Bioversity International was established with a mandate to promote biodiversity research for development. Such research programmes and activities aim to promote the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources for the achievement of development goals. The food and nutrition programme of the organization thus aims to improve food and nutrition security and health, particularly of resource-poor populations in developing countries through making maximum use of local agricultural biodiversity. The programme promotes a food systems-based approach to food and nutrition interventions, an approach that employs the agricultural biodiversity of traditional and locally adapted food resources as primary and frontline resources in strategies against food and nutrition insecurity.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dietary diversification is vital to tackling the problems of hunger, micronutrient malnutrition and diet-related chronic diseases for which prevalence and incidence rates have been reported to be high in most ECOWAS Member States. These conditions continue to put immense strains on the health services infrastructure of governments in the region. Dietary diversification requires diversity in agricultural production leading to diversity in the food supply systems of the population. Reports show that the increasing nutrition and health problems of population groups in West Africa are paralleled by the decline in the use of foods from the traditional food systems, and by the loss of indigenous knowledge that is essential for the full exploitation of these food resources that are well known to have positive nutrition and health benefits. Unsupportive national and regional agricultural policies and programmes over the past years, the absence of research needed to improve production systems and increase the supply of traditional foods, as well as the absolute lack of coordinated programmes to promote these food resources have all been implicated in the current decline in the production of traditional foods by small-scale farmers who constitute the bedrock of the region’s food production system.

The WAHO/ROPPA/Bioversity International initiative was therefore conceived to work with other international development partners in a multidisciplinary and multisectoral manner to seek funding, develop and execute programmes aimed at catalyzing increased research into traditional food production systems, develop the capacities of small-scale farmers, and stimulate national and regional public awareness and advocacy activities. The initiative thus expects its programme activities to lead to increased production, processing, marketing, easy availability and consumption by households of nutrient-rich foods from the region’s traditional food systems.

A total of 28 representatives from small-scale farmers’ associations, regional and international organizations, research institutions and private sector organizations participated in the three-day workshop. The overarching objective of the workshop was to bring together pivotal players and key experts in the agriculture, food, nutrition and health sectors to brainstorm and map out concrete actions that need to be undertaken in order to achieve increases in the production, marketing, availability and accessibility, and consumption by urban and rural households, nutrient-rich food resources from the region’s traditional food systems. The technical update presentations by the invited experts provided the participating members of national small-scale farmers associations with information that enabled them to more clearly identify their knowledge gaps and afforded them the opportunity to better articulate their constraints and challenges, identify the types of support they require in order to improve food production in their farms, and their organizational plans for the future.

The three working groups identified and suggested achievable priority actions to address the needs for advocacy, improvements in information sharing and production technology for small-scale food producers, as well as institutional support to vulnerable groups in the population by way of coordinated programmes that promote the diverse food resources within the region’s traditional food systems.

The participants strongly recommended the further strengthening of existing ties between WAHO, ROPPA, ECOWAS Commission’s Department of Agriculture, and Bioversity International in order to ensure the effective development and execution of programmes to promote the increased production and mainstreaming in household diets, of food resources from the traditional food systems of the region.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WAHO/ROPPA/Bioversity Regional Initiative Workshop for the promotion of local and traditional foods from West Africa’s ecosystems is a testament to partnership activities spearheaded by WAHO. The initiative is a collaborative partnership between the West African Health Organization (WAHO), the association of farmers and small scale traditional food producers (ROPPA) and Bioversity International whose nutrition programme activities is aimed at improving the food and nutrition security of populations in the sub-region through the active mobilization and mainstreaming of the diversity in the traditional food systems into household and family diets.

At this critical time when West Africa is facing multiple challenges and constraints involving climate change and its effects on agricultural production, financial crisis and the increasing prevalence rates of malnutrition, this meeting is timely and brings together Experts from different fields to discuss and exchange ideas on available options making optimal use of the existing nutrient-rich local biodiversity in order to improve livelihoods of the people of the sub-region.

The West African Health Organization (WAHO) has a mission to harmonize health policies in West Africa. However it has been working tirelessly with experts in the agriculture sector because nutrition (erroneously considered a health issue) is the nexus between agriculture and health. Nutrition plays a key role in people’s health and livelihood. In West Africa agricultural production contributes up to 60% to our GDP and offers a large diversity of nutrient-rich local foods that can be effectively deployed to ensure food security and improved nutrition, a fact that that is not known to most people. Using the biodiversity that exists within West Africa’s traditional food systems to work for the prevention of over and under nutrition, as well as diet related chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and other cardiovascular disorders is possible and should be given primary consideration by governments of the sub-region in the context of their national policies for food sovereignty in a changing environment in which the effects of globalization and climate change are clearly felt.

The partnership between WAHO and Bioversity International during several years in the areas of information exchange and dissemination, advocacy, and capacity building, reveals the necessity for a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach between agriculture and health in order to tackle the issues of food and nutrition security for improved health for all, and in the pursuit of achieving Millennium Development Goals. The collaboration with ROPPA, the ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture, Environment, and Water Resources, as well as the ECOWAS Parliament also highlights the need for multiple partnerships that respect and value specific expertises and innovations of the various partners in the fight against poverty and malnutrition and the assurance of adequate foods for all West African households.

The West African Health Organization seizes the opportunity, to express its gratitude to Bioversity International for its continuous efforts in assisting WAHO to organize and implement programmes related to Food and Nutrition Security, and Health. It acknowledges the support of the ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, its partner ROPPA and the ECOWAS Parliament, and thanks them for their participation in this first workshop of the initiative for adding value to the food resources from West Africa’s local food systems.
1.0 Introduction

Dietary diversification is vital to tackling the problems of hunger, micronutrient malnutrition and diet-related chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and certain cardiovascular diseases whose incidence and prevalence rates are reported to be high in most ECOWAS member States. Dietary diversification requires diversity in agricultural production leading to diversity in the food systems of the population.

The West African sub-region with its varied agro-ecological zones holds a very wide range of agricultural biodiversity which as was in the past, continues to play a vital role in the food security, nutrition and health of both rural and urban populations. In spite of this abundance, there are reports of decreases in agricultural productivity, neglect and under-utilization of food resources from the traditional food systems leading to food and nutrition insecurity. Furthermore, the globalization of food systems has made possible the introduction of exotic food resources which compete with foods from local ecosystems for position of preference in the dietary habits of rural and urban populations and promote negative attitudes of the region’s populations towards traditional foods and have produced significant changes in consumption patterns and the level of production of traditional foods. The increasing nutrition and health problems of the population are thus both paralleled by the decline in use of traditional food resources which are well known for their positive nutrition and health benefits, and by the loss of indigenous knowledge among the population essential for the full exploitation of these food resources.

Unsupportive national and regional agricultural policies and programmes over the past years, as well as the absence of programmes to promote traditional food resources, have been implicated in the current decline in food production by small-scale farmers in particular. Furthermore, climatic changes, and the negative effects on crop production in sub-Saharan Africa in particular, further exacerbate the food insufficiency and availability for rural agriculture-dependent populations.

Although the agriculture sector significantly contributes to the gross domestic products (GDP) of ECOWAS member states, and a decline in productivity of the sector negatively affects household purchasing power, investments and support of the agriculture sector is still grossly inadequate. There is thus a great urgency for governments in the subregion to increase food productivity by small-scale farmers, improve the availability and accessibility of local foods from the traditional food systems in order to improve the possibility of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing hunger and poverty, and stem the tide of micronutrient malnutrition and diet-related chronic diseases.

In West Africa as in most of sub-Saharan Africa, the small-scale farmer-managed food resources (staples, non-staples, sauce condiments and other minor dietary components) supply a very large and significant proportion of dietary energy and proteins, micronutrients, and health protective bioactive compounds. The production and availability of these nutrient-rich traditional foods in the sub-region is therefore sine-qua-non in the ongoing regional battle against food insecurity, micronutrient
malnutrition and diet related chronic diseases. National governments thus have a fundamental responsibility to ensure the resilience and sustainability of small-scale food production systems. Effective national programmes aimed at revitalizing the traditional food systems, and increasing the production of indigenous and traditional foods would constitute sure steps towards the re-introduction of micronutrient-rich foods into the contemporary food habits of both rural and urban populations.

Within the region, the network of small-scale food producers represented by ROPPA plays a pivotal role in national and regional programmes aimed at promoting diversification in household diets. These networks are the pillars of any national or regional initiatives and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable improvements in food security, nutrition and health of populations in both rural and urban areas. However, in order to effectively support and engender this pivotal role of small-scale food producers in the region, it is important to address vigorously the ongoing challenges which have hindered food productivity among small-scale producers and lowered their ability to sustain their livelihoods. Key among these well known challenges are:

- Unavailability to small-scale farmers of new technologies required to improve and increase the production of traditional foods
- Lack of support from governments in the form of innovative initiatives that target improved agronomic practices resulting in increased production and thereby income, and improved livelihoods of farm families
- Lack of programmes and activities such as public awareness and consumer education that emphasize the nutrition and health benefits of consuming these local food resources, and aim at stimulating demand for traditional foods among the population
- Very high post-harvest losses due to the existing informal market system
- Lack of structured market system and outlets, and very poor or non-existent distribution networks for traditional foods
- No easily available documented and user-friendly information on the nutritional and health protection attributes of traditional food resources, which significantly hinders their promotion as rich sources of micronutrients and health protective bioactive compounds.

The WAHO/ROPPA/Bioversity International initiative was therefore conceived to work in a multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral manner with other research and development partners (FAO, IFPRI, CILSS, WAEMU, and relevant ECOWAS Parliamentary Committees). It is expected that the formed partnerships will seek funding, develop and execute programmes aimed at catalyzing and stimulating national and regional advocacy, capacity development of small-scale food producers, and research activities having as output targets the increased production, processing, marketing and consumption by households of nutrient-rich foods from the region’s traditional food systems.

This regional workshop for the promotion of local foods was thus the first in a series of activities of the initiative consortium (WAHO, ROPPA, Bioversity), which was planned to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between members of the networks
of small-scale food producers, representatives of national and regional organizations, research institutions and private sector organizations. The workshop afforded opportunities for participants (small-scale farmers) to articulate and discuss the enormous daily challenges they face as food producers. It also provided an enabling environment for capacity development by way of technical update presentations which helped to put the challenges articulated in context and armed the farmers with information that would aid them in clearly identifying, during the working group deliberations, their needs for research and development, advocacy and continued capacity building. (See Annex 1 for Workshop Programme)

1.1 Workshop Objectives

The overarching objective of the workshop was to bring together pivotal players and key experts from relevant sectors to brainstorm and map out concrete actions to be undertaken in order to achieve increases in the production, marketing, easy availability and accessibility, and consumption of nutrient-rich foods from West Africa’s traditional food systems by rural and urban households.

1.2 Specific Objectives

- Provide participants with information that enables them to discern the critical link between the biodiversity in their farms, and the food security, nutrition and health of the population
- Provide the participants information on the best practices in food processing and quality control with respect to the processing of traditional foods and their products
- Learn, from shared experiences of ROPPA membership, diverse ways and opportunities for the promotion of traditional foods and products
- Identify research needs for the development of a regional food composition database to include the diversity of foods from the traditional food systems
- Develop an action plan that identifies opportunities and responds to the articulated challenges faced by all stakeholders in the promotion of foods from the traditional food systems including avenues for resource mobilization from the ECOWAS Commission and other donor agencies.

1.3 Expected Outcomes of the Workshop

Based on the workshop objectives, the following outcomes were expected:

- Improved and increased awareness among participants of the synergistic relationships between increased use by the population of the traditional foods from their farms, improved nutrition and health of the population, and improvements in their (farmers’) livelihoods
- Better cognizance by participants of existing norms and standards with respect to processed local foods, and the need for ensuring food safety during processing
- Increased awareness, among participating experts and representatives of regional institutions in particular, of the activities of ROPPA and its national membership, as well as a deep understanding of the challenges faced by small-scale farmers in the sub-region
- Better and increased understanding among all participants of the need to develop and publish in a user-friendly format a regional database of the composition of foods from the traditional food systems
- Better understanding among all participants of the vital role such a database will play, not only in public awareness programmes leading to increased consumption of local foods in the sub-region but also with respect to germplasm selection in agricultural production, as well as maintaining labeling norms and standards for regional and international food trade
- An Action Plan that responds to the workshop’s overarching objective while taking into consideration the challenges identified by the participants, as well as existing opportunities
- A resource mobilization plan to target key partners such as the ECOWAS Commission, USAID and other donor agencies identified by participants.

1.4 Participation in the Workshop

The workshop brought together a total of 28 participants from ROPPA member organizations and national platforms from 12 countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Other participants include representatives from regional organizations (ECOWAS, WAHO), the ECOWAS Parliament, International Organization (Bioversity International), University and research institutions, as well as private sector organizations. See Annex 2 for the List of Participants.

The intention of the workshop organizers was to create a conducive environment where the “real actors” in the region’s food production systems – the small-scale farmers – have the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face with representatives from governments, research institutions and bilateral organizations. It was hoped that such exchanges would lead to a clearer understanding among all participants, of the existing constraints to improved and increased production of traditional foods, provide opportunities for the discussion of viable and sustainable options for improvements that are relevant and culturally acceptable while at the same time highlighting areas of possible technical assistance by research institutions and development organizations.
2.0 Workshop Opening

The workshop was opened by the Honorable Ms Saran Sere Senema, a Deputy in the Burkina Faso Parliament who is also a Representative in the ECOWAS Parliament where she is the Chairperson of the Commission on Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development.

Ms Seneme thanked the workshop organizers – WAHO/ROPPA/Bioversity International for putting together the initiative to work together for the promotion of foods from West Africa’s ecosystem. She reminded the participants that the populations’ response to food crises and the effects of climate change on food production was a natural return to traditional foods. She stressed that the workshop’s approach of collaborative partnerships between agriculture, nutrition and health sectors ensured the identification of existing constraints to achieving food and nutrition security, and the development of harmonized policies and strategies that would not only increase diversity in the production of culturally acceptable foods, but also, through the promotion of these foods, change the populations’ current negative food choices and practices.

Ms Seneme noted that, in spite of the significantly large contribution of agriculture to the gross domestic products of ECOWAS member states, there is a glaring lack of investment and support for food crop production which, according to her, has contributed to the poor development of the food crop sector of agriculture. She congratulated and encouraged ROPPA to continue its engagement with governments to ensure cohesion in agricultural policies, as well as in the formulation of strategies and programmes which take into consideration the need to inform, educate and increase public awareness. She ended by stressing the need for collaborative actions between the executive branch of governments, civil societies, and the private sector in the region in order to meet the challenges ahead, work together to develop solutions that are locally appropriate and not to accept passively outside solutions which are culturally inappropriate and does not take into consideration local conditions.
In his opening remarks, Dr Ismael Thiam, Non Communicable Diseases Officer, WAHO, traced the history of the ongoing attempts to promote the production and consumption by the population of foods from the region’s traditional food systems. He informed the participants that the discussions and participants’ demands at the ECOWAS nutrition forums in Cap Verde (2006) and again in Sierra Leone (2008) paved the way and facilitated the partnership between ROPPA, WAHO and Bioversity International, and had made possible the organization of the workshop. He reminded participants of the importance of the agro-biodiversity within the sub-region which, if effectively promoted, could contribute significantly to the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition. This, he indicated, required collaboration between the different actors present at the workshop in order to achieve the results expected.

The Principal Programme Officer for Agriculture in the ECOWAS Commission Mr Ernest Aubee thanked ROPPA, WAHO and Bioversity International who had taken the initiative to work together to promote food resources from West Africa’s traditional food systems as an effective way to fight against food insecurity and malnutrition. He informed the participants that the ECOWAS Commission had just completed participatory work on the development of its regional programme on agricultural investments and hoped that the workshop results could help in effectively applying the programme funding activities to areas of need.

In his opening remarks, Mr Mamadou Sissoko, Honorary President of ROPPA, thanked the ECOWAS Commission for its new vision to allow the participation of relevant actors in the development of its agricultural policies. He reminded the participants of the key role that the agricultural biodiversity within the region could be made to play in resolving the region’s fundamental problems of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. He reiterated the great need for partnerships and collaboration between the relevant sectors as well as the establishment and maintenance of synergy in the existing regional policies. He called the attention of participants to the close link between agriculture, food insecurity and health, and lamented the lack of collaboration between the agriculture and health sectors. He concluded by inviting the participants to contribute their best efforts so that the results of the workshop could be effectively applied not only to develop ways to promote foods from the region’s traditional food systems but could also be used in the ongoing fight against food insecurity and malnutrition.

2.1 **Keynote Address**

Mr Cissoko delivered the keynote address on the topic “Agricultural Policies and Food Security in West Africa: A review of the Challenges of Small-scale Producers in the context of Globalization”.

Mr Sissoko set the tone of the workshop by tracing the history of agricultural policies during three periods. The first was the era of national independence which saw the formulation of policies for rural development. These policies took all sectors (agriculture, economic and social) into consideration in the development of strategies thus creating synergistic relationships between sectoral policies and programmes, and the establishment of strong links between food production resources and other
resources. However he lamented the fact that the agricultural policy advocated two production systems – one for cash crops which was well managed with appropriate facilities, and the other for food crops which was badly managed and received little support. Both production systems were made possible by small-scale farmers in rural areas. Revenue from these productions was used to develop towns and cities to the detriment of the rural areas thus creating disequilibrium between urban, and rural areas, and provoking rural exodus.

The second era was characterized by Structural Adjustment Programmes and the drastic disengagement of governments from agricultural production services which were critical for the small-scale producers. Small-scale farmers were compelled to manage some of these services without help from governments. This led to the birth of the organizations of small-scale producers which were formed to fill the void caused by government disengagement and lack of support for agricultural production services.

The third and current era was marked by the strong presence of small-scale farmers who became well organized according to the different production sectors (fisheries, animal husbandry, and agriculture) as well as for products such as cotton, fruits and vegetables. These cooperative groups were formed at regional, national and local levels to provide support to their members and also to defend members’ rights to live dignified lives in the practice of their profession as farmers.

Mr Cissoko reminded participants that both the food producers and political leaders shared responsibility for the alarming food insecurity in the sub-region. He noted that the small-scale food producers needed to be better organized in defending their interests in the face of the ongoing globalization of food supplies, while the national leaders have the key responsibility of feeding their populations through the formulation of policies which take into consideration the aspirations and the rights of the population to a healthy food supply. Mr Cissoko ended his address by noting that the national leaders should not be content with managing food crises through help from Western countries because no country developed itself through food aid which can never be used to solve the problems of food and nutrition insecurity. The food and nutrition security of any population was the responsibility of their government, not that of international cooperation or organizations.
3.0 Summaries of Technical Update Presentations

The series of technical presentations made during the workshop were expected to help enlighten the ROPPA membership in particular and aid them in clearly discerning the very close link between agriculture, nutrition and health. The presentations also provided the participants with information which would help them effectively articulate their needs and the nature of the assistance they expect from partners. Details of the presentations can be found in Annex 3.

3.1 Agriculture, Nutrition and Health: What works in the Collaboration?
Dr Ismael Thiam, WAHO & Kathlenn Kurz, Africa 2010
In his presentation, Dr Thiam explained why there is need for collaboration between the agricultural sector and the nutrition/health sector. He highlighted the fact that in the current system within national governments no one formal sector takes primary responsibility for ensuring the food and nutrition security of the population. According to him sectoral difference and “turf wars” impede collaboration between sectors resulting in the continued maintenance of the status quo.

3.2 The Impact of Climate Change on Crops: the role of Agricultural Biodiversity in Adaptation
Dr Raymond Vodouhe, Bioversity International
Dr Vodouhe presented evidence to show that climatic changes were a present reality and therefore the agriculture sector needed to adjust and adapt its production systems. He maintained that more emphasis needed to be put on adaptation research with species diversity and resilience being the key attributes of such research which should also take into consideration good understanding, strengthening, and the promotion of local knowledge related to adaptation and climate change.

3.3 Biodiversity in West Africa’s Traditional Food Systems – Current knowledge, Challenges and Opportunities for their Mobilization for Food and Nutrition Security within the ECOWAS Region
Dr Ifeyironwa F. Smith, Bioversity International
In her presentation, Dr Smith reminded the participants of the Charge of the 1992 Global Plan of Action for Nutrition – that governments should implement the most
appropriate measures to ensure that food-based strategies are given first priority, favoring in particular locally available foods and taking into account local food habits. With slides of pictures of foods from West Africa’s traditional food systems, she presented evidence on the biodiversity in the region’s food systems, and the nutritional and health protective benefits of these foods. She highlighted key constraints and challenges to the effective mobilization of these food resources and suggested ways these challenges could be tackled.

3.4 Research needs for the development of a Regional Food Composition Database and indicators for food Biodiversity in West Africa

George A. Annor, Department of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Ghana

Mr Annor started his presentation by stressing the importance of knowing the compositional attributes of foods available in the national/regional food supply systems as well as suggesting several ways such information could be useful. He noted that the generation of reliable food composition data would contribute towards a better understanding of the role played by nutrition in human health, and of the vital link between agriculture, nutrition and health. He informed the participants that, in spite of this critical need for food composition databases, most countries in West Africa did not have national food composition databases which can also provide information on the biodiversity within the food systems. Using examples, he made the point that different varieties of the same food crop could contain significantly different levels of nutrients so it is important that any work on compilation of food composition database look at the varietal differences in the nutrient contents of foods.

3.5 Processing local Foods: challenges of Quality Control and the Application of Norms and Standards

Ms Mame Sine Mbojdi Ndiaye, Standards Board of Senegal

In her presentation, Ms Ndiaye informed the participants that the food processing sector in West Africa was young and essentially artisanal. Processing technologies were still rudimentary with a lack of norms and standards for finished products. The food processors also lacked the necessary skills to ensure quality and safe products. She then indicated that the key objective of strategies being developed to strengthen the food processing sector and add value to processed traditional foods included such factors as establishing standards for processing infrastructure; putting in place a system of surveillance and quality control; strengthening the image of local brands of processed foods and improving market access for these products.

Ms Ndiaye noted that the challenges encountered in the promotion of local foods were enormous and required an integrated approach involving all actors in food production, processing, distribution and marketing sectors.

3.6 Marketing of Local Foods: Integrating Social and Strategic Marketing for the Promotion of Traditional Foods

Dr Ismael Thiam, WAHO
Dr Thiam explained to participants the difference between social marketing which attempts to change the behavior and attitude of a target population, and strategic marketing in which specific strategies are developed to work on the presentation of the product, the price, the distribution networks, and the type of services to be provided in order for there to be a mutually satisfying exchange between the service provider and the recipient. Dr Thiam indicated that for the promotion of products from the biodiversity of West Africa’s food systems, it is important to use an integrated approach of social and strategic marketing that is mulitsectoral and multidisciplinary.

3.7 **ECOWAP/CAADP Process: State of Implementation, Prospects and Expected Results**

Ernest Aubee, ECOWAS Commission, Principal Programme Officer for Agriculture

Mr Aubee informed participants that, since 2003, the region had been engaged in various processes aimed at developing and building new mechanisms and instruments for the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The Economic Community of West African States Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) constitute the framework with which CAADP operated in West Africa. Mr Aubee informed participants on the state of implementation of CAADP in the region as well as the expected results of the implementation process. He expressed the hope that the results from the workshop would be useful in throwing light on areas of immediate support that required the Commission’s attention.

3.8 **The Conservation of Biodiversity within ECOWAS Environmental Policy (ECOWEP)**

Muse Leko, ECOWAS Commission, Principal Programme Officer for Forestry

Mr Leko informed the participants that the objective of West Africa’s environmental policy was to reverse the degradation of natural resources, improve the quality of life and conserve biodiversity in order to ensure a healthy environment and to improve productive ecosystems and the well-being of the population. To this end there are strategies that have been put in place to ensure the sustainable management of forestry resources. He noted the several challenges faced as a result of governments’ attempts to sustainably manage forest resources. Key among these is deforestation which in itself is a major cause of destruction of the ecosystem and loss of biodiversity. In response to these challenges ECOWAS forestry policy was formulated in 2005 to conserve and sustainably manage forests as well as forest-dwelling wild animals, and to restore degraded lands for the benefit of local communities.

3.9 **Forestry and Food Security: Promotion of non-agricultural biodiversity for food and nutrition security, and poverty alleviation**

Dr Edouard G. Bonkoungou, Centre de Formation et Etudes en Environnement et Developpment Durable (CFEDD)

Dr Bonkoungou reminded the participants of the vital role forest products can play in strategies against food and nutrition insecurity. He presented research data to show that these products (leafy vegetables, seeds, fruits, flowers and young stalks) are the main
suppliers of micronutrients and health protecting bioactive compounds in the daily diets of population in the sub-region. He concluded that available data is still fragmented but show that West African traditional foods are nutrient-rich and lamented that these foods are not sufficiently promoted in policies and strategies against food and nutrition insecurity. Due to the immense nutritional contribution of traditional vegetables and fruits from the local biodiversity, he proposed that they be taken into account in strategies being developed for the “Africa – The Nourishing Earth” campaign.

3.10 Use of traditional foods for the prevention or management of malnutrition

Ms Simone Zoundi, SODEPAL, Burkina Faso
Coming from the private sector and being involved in the processing of local foods into ready-to-use baby foods, as well as snack foods, Ms Zoundi’s presentation and participation in the workshop provided the participants the opportunity to listen to a successful food processor who shared her experiences, in particular the difficulties she faces as a small-scale food processor. Among the list of challenges were:

- Insufficient personal funds and lack of collateral to enable her to obtain access to bank loans
- Poor infrastructural facilities such as processing equipment, low storage capacities for raw material and processed products
- Lack of necessary tools for quality assurance and control
- High cost of poor quality packaging materials
- Very few trained personnel in the food processing industry
- Poor management and use of market information
- Difficulty with market access because of stiff competition from imported products.

4.0 ROPPA Platform Presentations

Representatives from small-scale farmers’ organizations from 12 West African countries were present at the workshop but 10 platforms made presentations on their national activities, challenges, needs and future plans. (See Annex 4 for the ROPPA Platform Presentations). It is important to note that each national platform is either composed of several federations or smaller affiliated groups. Below are summaries of the reported activities of these networks as well as their future plans, the constraints they experience and challenges faced as well as the areas in which they require support. The presentations show what progress these platforms have achieved in terms of promoting local foods, but also highlight their strong vulnerability in terms of technologies for food processing.

Ongoing Activities and Future Plans
The national platforms are involved in a wide variety of activities including advocacy which they see as a constantly ongoing activity. Their other activities range from the
promotion of the local foods they produce by way of food fairs, TV spot programmes, local recipe demonstrations, to seed banking, conservation and distribution among farmers, establishment and running of farmer field schools for farm families, as well as the organization of farmer field days when farmers meet to exchange views, indigenous knowledge, and inform themselves of current news and information of interest. Some platforms have produced a compilation of traditional recipes while members of the Mali platform are finalizing their first book on the local culinary art of Mali. Also in Mali, female members of the platform have developed a weaning (MISOLA) formula from traditional food resources. The Niger platform has plans to promote a book on the traditional dishes of Niger. Some platforms have plans to start an educational programme for their female membership.

Constraints and Challenges
The small-scale farmers maintained that most of the difficulties they face are linked to a lack of institutional support. Nevertheless, the challenges and constraints articulated by the platforms in their presentations are immense and are presented as bullet points in order to fully appreciate the gravity of the food production situation in the region. They are however not presented in any order of priority.

- Increasing lack of access to arable land with the ongoing decision of governments to allocate farm lands for the production of biofuels
- Land tenure problems hinder female farmers from farming in the same location for sufficiently long periods to improve and increase production.
- Preference of governments for cash crops discourages food crop production; small-scale farmers get very little help and support from governments
- No institutional/government support and/or protection from the effects of droughts, floods and invasions/destruction by locusts and crickets
- Very low use of inputs by farmers due to lack of operating funds which result in low production levels
- Imposition of western-type farming in the form of new seed varieties
- Poor infrastructure for transportation needed to move foods from production areas to markets
- Lack of infrastructure for processing of fresh products to limit post-harvest losses
- Lack of financial support from governments and inability to obtain bank credits due to lack or required adequate collateral
- Marketing difficulties due to absence of protection from competition from imports
- Little or no market infrastructure and lack of support for the marketing of local foods and products.

Expressed Needs
Most of the articulated needs are centered on the farmers’ ability to process food products and so minimize post harvest losses. The farmers would like to be updated and trained on improved farm-level processing techniques which take into consideration traditional processing methods, as well as techniques for packaging of processed foods. They also need help with negotiating the markets, and the establishment of national,
regional and international market outlets for their farm products. The need to have easily understood information on the nutrition and health benefits of traditional foods was also expressed. Such data on the nutritional contents of foods, according to the farmers, is fundamental to all strategies for the promoting of increased production, marketing and consumption of traditional foods by all social groups in the population.
5.0 Plenary Discussion of Presentations

5.1 Issues at Stake and the Challenges of an Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Collaboration

Following the keynote address and the three presentations which addressed the relationship between agriculture, food security, nutrition and health, the participants overwhelmingly agreed that the populations’ food and nutrition security cut across sectoral lines and so policies, strategies and programmes put in place to address food and nutrition insecurity have to be multisectoral in nature and multidisciplinary in their implementation. The participants also noted that, for such collaborative partnerships it is absolutely important that the target objectives of reduction in the level of food insecurity and rates of malnutrition among the population were very clearly defined with responsibilities of each partner also clearly defined.

The participants suggested the need to establish synergistic partnerships between small-scale food producers, governments and researchers whom the farmers need for technical support. They however cautioned that use be made of existing traditional knowledge in research for improved technologies particularly in light of the currently experienced effects of climatic changes on crop production. They also advised that these effects of climate change should be taken into consideration in the formulation of new agricultural policies and programmes.

5.2 Opportunities Presented by the Rich Agricultural Biodiversity in the Sub-region

The plenary discussions on this topic centered on the role of agricultural biodiversity in the control of over and under nutrition. The participants again called for the need to promote aggressively the immense food and nutrition potentials of foods from the region’s ecosystems. They reiterated that a vital tool required to effectively promote
these food resources is information on their compositional attributes presented in a user-friendly and easily understood format. They also suggested that accompanying the information on compositional attributes should be a map showing where these foods are found, as well as a seed map providing information on seed sources, variety and availability for use by small-scale farmers.

On food processing technologies, the participants acknowledged that processing these foods improved their keeping quality, competitiveness in markets, as well as availability long after harvesting. They therefore requested that basic information on processing techniques and methods be made available to them. Closely linked to this discussion on processing was the issue of food safety implications of traditional food processing. There was a unanimous acknowledgement of the lack of application of norms and standards of food safety and hygiene by a majority of traditional food processors. They therefore recommended that a basic training programme on the norms and standards of food processing techniques, as well as the safety and hygiene of processed food products be institutionalized for processors of traditional foods.

The session’s discussion ended with the recommendation by the participants for the creation of a planning and implementation committee made up of representatives from research, agriculture and health public sectors, and farmers’ organizations. This committee should work to address the already articulated farmers’ challenges which have contributed to the food and nutrition insecurity in the region. They also called for support of this committee to farmers’ organizations in order to help them adapt to the changing food production environment, as well a commitment to concrete actions that would lead to improvements in traditional food production.

5.3 Policies, Strategies and Programmes on Food and Nutrition Security in West Africa

The presentations of the two representatives of the ECOWAS Commission on policies and programmes that are in place to address food and nutrition insecurity was followed by a presentation by Ms Seneme, Chairperson of the ECOWAS Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, who explained the roles and responsibilities of the ECOWAS Parliament. In response to Ms Seneme’s assertion that the Parliament is not an Executive branch of government and so cannot enforce rules but can work with ROPPA to get governments to take action on specific issues, the participants wondered what strategies could be put in place and what measures the workshop organizers could take to ensure follow-up action to the resolutions adopted by the workshop participants. They were assured that the Committee on agriculture was already working very closely with ROPPA and would take all necessary actions to provide needed support. The participants then called for the strengthening of existing ties and increased the collaboration between the agriculture and forestry arms of the ECOWAS Commission, WAHO, ROPPA and Bioversity International in order to strengthen existing synergy in policies, programmes and activities, and ensure that effective actions were taken aimed directly at resolving the many constraints and challenges that were earlier identified by workshop participants.
6.0 Working Group Sessions

Three parallel working groups were constituted to perform the tasks listed below. Two groups of French speaking participants were constituted; a third group was made up of participants from Anglophone countries together with some bilingual participants.

**Group Work Tasks**

1. To identify priority activities and programmes for which advocacy is vital at national, regional and international levels and, to recommend opportunities for such advocacy activities.

2. To identify research and development needs for improvements in information and technology for small-scale food producers in order to ensure sustainable use of biodiversity, and to suggest priority action oriented programmes.

3. To identify needs and to suggest priority approaches to providing institutional support to vulnerable groups through the promotion of agricultural biodiversity.

**Working Group Outputs**

6.1 Use of Advocacy

Although the ROPPA platform presentations and the presentation on the ROPPA regional initiative show that within ROPPA, advocacy is a constantly ongoing activity, the working group identified activities for which strong advocacy on the part of ROPPA membership and their partners was required in order to produce the desired responses and results. At the national, regional and international levels, the Group 1 identified the following activities that required intense advocacy:

- Increase in productivity and the diversification of production of traditional food crops
- Conservation of the biodiversity in the region’s ecosystem
- Improvement of the trans-national and regional transportation infrastructure and institutions to ensure better and free movement of food products within and outside national boundaries
- Development of programmes for the adaptation of production systems to climate change
- Development of programmes for promoting the nutritional and health protecting values of traditional foods.

The recommended Opportunities/Avenues for Advocacy directed at these activities include:

- Wide distribution of the workshop report to private sector organizations, national heads of agriculture and health sectors, as well as policy and decision makers within these sectors in order to sensitize and bring to their attention the issues at stake.
• Make available the workshop report to the Prime Ministers’ Office of each ECOWAS Member state
• Make available on-line the entire workshop report to ensure a wider dissemination of its deliberations and recommendations, and encourage public participation in the debate for increased support by governments for the diversification and increase in the production and availability of traditional foods from the region’s ecosystems
• Organization of national workshops involving agriculture, nutrition, health and private sector organizations (e.g. food processors and consumer organizations) to discuss the workshop outputs, exchange ideas and suggest best ways to address food and nutrition insecurity in the region
• Wide distribution of workshop report to key regional and international partners and donor organizations such as African Development Bank, NEPAD, CORAF, USAID, DFID
• Advocate for the inclusion of the identified activities in the agenda items of Ministerial/heads of division meetings involving agriculture, environment, health, finance and national planning
• Develop and execute Radio, TV and print media information, education and communication campaigns to promote the health benefits of traditional foods
• Organization of national/regional agricultural fairs which provide opportunities to inform and educate the public on West Africa’s traditional foods, their uses and their nutritional qualities.
• Institutionalize the use of traditional prepared foods at national government social events, cocktails and for coffee breaks at meetings.

6.2 Improvements in Information and Technology for Small-scale Food Producers in order to ensure Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Improved Livelihoods, Research and Development Needs

The working group started their deliberation by noting that, although small-scale food production is usually done in family owned farms, these farms produce not only for home consumption but also sell their products in order to improve their livelihoods. The identified research and development needs target the following:
• Improvements in agronomic practices to take into consideration existing indigenous knowledge on traditional agricultural practices
• Improvements in seed selection and conservation techniques to ensure increases in food crop production and yields
• Techniques for post-harvest management of food products
• Information and knowledge of the compositional attributes (nutritional and health promotion and protection) of the foods produced by small-scale food producers
• Building of human and physical/institutional capacity through the provision of basic training on agronomic techniques for farmers and the establishment and/or strengthening of facilities/institutions for formal and informal hands-on training.

Suggested Priority Action Plans
1. Making information on the Compositional Attributes of West Africa’s Traditional Foods available in a user-friendly format. This would entail:
- Literature search for existing published data
- Identification of information gaps in existing published data
- Conduct of research (food analysis) to fill the information gaps
- Compilation and wide dissemination of user-friendly information on the nutritional and health properties of common and regionally popular traditional recipes as well, as improved and modernized food mixtures which enhance the availability of nutrients contained therein.

2. Capacity Development (Human Training) in:
- Basic and improved agronomic techniques
- Use of farm machinery and small-scale processing equipment
- Food processing techniques relevant to foods produced and the measures required to minimize post-harvest losses
- Entrepreneurship and value addition to farm products
- Best practices for on-farm conservation of agro-biodiversity, seed selection, bulking, banking and distribution
- Empowerment through the provision of updates on agricultural policies, legal instruments and regulatory issues
- Quality control of locally produced and processed foods (food safety)

6.3 Approaches through which support can be provided to Vulnerable Groups in the Population through the promotion of Agricultural Biodiversity

Two institutions considered by the third working group as entry points through which support could be provided included school meal programmes and women’s cooperative groups. The women’s cooperative groups and movements are considered to be vital agents of change in the society which, if effectively used, can reach and provide support through information and awareness activities to diverse population groups and social strata. The working group thus identified the following needs:

Improvements in home-grown school feeding programmes and initiatives
- Increase of the level of knowledge and awareness among school-age children, teachers, parents and the public at large of the nutritional benefits of consuming traditional foods
- Development and dissemination of compelling and targeted nutrition information/education materials and messages on foods from West Africa’s traditional food systems.

Suggested Priority Actions/Programmes
1. Establishment of national elementary school feeding initiatives as part of national social safety-net programmes, and which should comprise:
- Development of basic nutrition education in elementary and secondary school curricula
- Re-introduction of school gardens/farms as part of the schools’ nutrition education package and an important entry point for imparting knowledge of traditional foods and their health benefits
- Development of school meal menus based principally on locally grown and traditional foods
- Support to the creation of small-scale farmer food suppliers to the school feeding programmes and to ensuring the supply of diversified local food resources including protein and micronutrient-rich food resources.

2. Development of Public Nutrition Education and Awareness Campaigns. These campaigns would involve the development and institutionalization of national public nutrition awareness programmes centered on women and led by members of women’s cooperative groups and movements. As key actors in the food and nutrition security of their households, as well as being dominant in the production and processing of traditional foods, women are best placed to “lead the charge” in changing the negative food habits and practices of West Africa’s populations through informing and educating the public at large on the nutrition and health properties of traditional foods. The group noted that this could be achieved locally, nationally and regionally through the following progressive activities:

- Organization at local and national levels of capacity building/food and nutrition training workshops for members of women’s cooperative groups and movements (Training of Trainers)
- Provision of support for the trained groups to assure the following responsibilities:
  (a) Organization of training workshops for women involved in school meal programmes, school food vending as well as street food vending
  (b) Organization of local food fairs in which traditional recipes are promoted including information on the nutritional value of the ingredients used
  (c) Organization of traditional food fairs and recipe development competitions involving hotel meal service providers and restaurant operators
  (d) Organization of TV recipe demonstration programmes to inform and educate the public on the nutritional properties of the ingredients in the recipe
  (e) Organization of radio talk shows and call-in programmes that take on food and nutrition issues and questions, and provision of answers to questions from the public.

7.0 Review and Adoption of Recommendations

At the end of the working group sessions, the participants reconvened in plenary to discuss the presentation of the outputs from the working groups, and to adopt the recommended action plans. The participants also adopted the resolutions, recommendations and motions presented below.
7.1 Resolutions

Representatives of the various institutions who participated in the workshop resolved to commit themselves to the following:

1. To strengthen their collaboration and partnerships within the framework of the WAHO/ROPPA/Bioversity International Initiative in order to promote the utilization of local products from the ecosystems of ECOWAS member countries through:
   - The sharing of documents and information at their disposal
   - The signing of bi-and multi-lateral agreements
   - The organization of joint activities during the 2010 Year of Biodiversity and the International Conference on Biodiversity
   - The publication and diffusion of a booklet on the traditional culinary art of West Africa

2. To mobilize potential actors within civil society organizations, as well as public and private sector stakeholders in order to engage in multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral activities and programmes for the promotion and addition of value to traditional food products from the region’s agricultural biodiversity in order to alleviate food insecurity and malnutrition

3. To use formal and informal information and communication channels to inform, sensitize and take into consideration the wishes and expectations of the most vulnerable victims of food insecurity and malnutrition.

7.2 Recommendations

Participants recommended that:

1. The ECOWAS Commission strengthen its fight against food insecurity by taking into consideration the very close links between nutrition and biodiversity in its regional programmes on food security

2. The ECOWAS Commission integrate into the implementation of the Regional Programme for Investment in Agriculture, the Ouagadougou Action Plan which prioritized the making available of information on the compositional data of traditional foods, value addition to local food products through improved processing techniques, and the promotion of traditional foods and food products from the region’s agricultural biodiversity in order to improve food and nutrition security among the population

3. The ECOWAS Commission and the WAHO intensify their advocacy campaign towards decision making authorities to take into consideration the links between agro-biodiversity and nutrition, and to ensure that these links be reflected in national strategies and programmes for the combating of food and nutrition insecurity and diet-related chronic diseases
4. ECOWAS, ROPPA, WAHO and Bioversity International strengthen their collaboration and partnership for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan

5. The ROPPA Platforms strengthen their advocacy activities and contribute towards an effective implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan by adopting a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to their partnerships

6. ROPPA, Biodiversity International and WAHO work together to make the International Year of Biodiversity an occasion for adding value and promoting West African Biodiversity through the implementation of a series of well planned year-long activities.

7.3 Motions

Motion of Encouragement

The participants encourage ROPPA, WAHO, Bioversity International and ECOWAS to continue to engage in dialogue and consultation in order to significantly contribute towards the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition through policies which enable the engendering of value addition to local foods and products, and support the promotion of local biodiversity-based products.

Motion of acknowledgement

The participants thanked WAHO and ROPPA for the warm welcome they enjoyed throughout their stay in Ouagadougou

They warmly thanked the Honourable Member of Parliament, Madam Sereme, the Chairperson of the ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development for her availability all through the workshop and her commitment to the cause for which the workshop was convened.

They specially thanked the representatives of the ECOWAS Commission for their support and availability.

The participants passed a special motion of acknowledgement to the Government and people of Burkina Faso for the welcome and hospitality they had enjoyed.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 Closing Ceremony

The workshop closing ceremony was presided over by Ms Saran Sereme, Chairperson of the ECOWAS Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development, who thanked the participants for their diligence during the past three days which had resulted in the presented outputs from the three
working groups. She informed the participants that the information provided and the discussions all through the workshop showed that there was a lot of work to be done, and she assured them of the willingness of the ECOWAS Committee on Agriculture to work very closely with ROPPA and their partners in order to achieve the overarching workshop objective to improve the nutrition, health and livelihoods of populations in all ECOWAS member states.

She thanked WAHO, ROPPA and Bioversity International for the formation of the WAHO/ROPPA/Bioversity collaborative Initiative, and for organizing the workshop. She commended the participants and workshop organizers on the relevance and quality of the presentations during the workshop as well as the animated discussions which had all contributed to the formulation of the action plans. She once again assured the participants of the cooperation and collaboration of the ECOWAS Commission in their work towards achieving the set-action plans, and wished them a safe travel back to their home destinations.
## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Workshop Programme/Agenda

**REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL FROM WEST AFRICAN ECOSYSTEMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1</th>
<th>3 November 2009</th>
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| 08.30–10.30 | Registration of participants  
- Opening Ceremony  
- Visit to the Exhibition of local foods and local recipes by the Women’s cooperative groups of Burkina Faso  
- General Information (WAHO)  
- Presentation of objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop  
- Presentation and adoption of the Workshop Agenda  
- Election of daily Chairpersons and rapporteurs |

### Session 1: Issues at Stake and the Challenges of an Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Collaboration

- **10.30-11.00**  
  **Introduction of the Session: Dr Cissoko**  
  Honorary Chairman of ROPPA: Agriculture Policies and Food Security in West Africa: The View and Challenges West African Peasants of West Africa and Challenges in a context of Globalization

- **11.00-12.30**  
  Agriculture and Health/Nutrition: What works in the collaboration? ([WAHO](#))

- **11.30-12.00**  
  Food Security and Nutrition: Challenges in West Africa ([WAHO](#))

- **12.00-12.30**  
  The Impacts of Climate Change: the role of agricultural biodiversity in adaptation ([Bioversity International](#))

- **12.30-14.30**  
  **Lunch**

### Session 2: Opportunities Presented by the Rich Agricultural Biodiversity in the Subregion

- **14.30 -15.00**  
  Biodiversity in West Africa’s Traditional Food Systems - Current knowledge, challenges and opportunities for their mobilization in Food and Nutrition security within the ECOWAS region ([Bioversity International](#))

- **15.00-15.30**  
  Research Needs and feasibility of the development of a Regional Food Composition Database, and indicators for Biodiversity in West Africa ([Legon University](#))

- **15.30-16.00**  
  Processing local foods: Quality Control and standards issues ([Standards](#))
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.00</td>
<td>Challenges in marketing local foods: The necessary Mix of Social and strategic marketing required for the promotion of local foods (WAHO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30-18.30</td>
<td>Panel Discussion Session (ROPPA, WAHO, ECOWAS, BIOVERSITY) Feeding the population for the control of over and under nutrition in West Africa - the role of Biodiversity</td>
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<td><strong>Dr Francisca Smith</strong></td>
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<td>Honorary Research Fellow Nutrition Bioversity International</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>Wrap up of Day 1</td>
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**DAY 2**

4 November 2009

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<tr>
<td>08.30-9.00</td>
<td>Review of day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00-9.30</td>
<td>ROPPA Platform – Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>9.30-10.00</td>
<td>ROPPA Platform - Ghana</td>
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<td>10.00-10.30</td>
<td>ROPPA Platform - Niger</td>
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<td>10.30-11.00</td>
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<td>11.00-11.30</td>
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<td>ROPPA Platform – Togo</td>
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<td>14.00-14.30</td>
<td>ROPPA Platform – Mali</td>
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<td>14.30-15.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.30-16.00</td>
<td>SESSION 4: Policies, Strategies and Programmes on Food and Nutrition Security in West Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td>ECOWAP/CAADP Process: Objectives, Context, State of Implementation, Prospects, Expected Results and the Biodiversity Policy of ECOWAS (ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture)</td>
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<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td>The Conservation of Biodiversity in the Context of the ECOWAS Environmental Policy (ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture)</td>
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<td>16.30-17.00</td>
<td>ROPPA Regional Initiatives for the Promotion Agricultural Biodiversity for Food Security (ROPPA/Regional Office)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00-17.30</td>
<td>Forests and Food Security: Promotion of non-agricultural biodiversity for</td>
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food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation (Edouard Bonkoungou, CFEDD Burkina Faso)

17.30-18.00 Use of local foods for the prevention and management of malnutrition (Ms Simone Zoundi, SODEPAL Burkina Faso)

### DAY 3

5 November 2009

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9.00</td>
<td>Review of Day 2 (Rapporteur)</td>
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<td>9.00-9.30</td>
<td>Presentation of the Working Groups Terms of Reference</td>
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<td><strong>Group 1:</strong> Identify priority actions for which advocacy is vital at country, regional and international levels and recommend opportunities for such advocacy activities</td>
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<td><strong>Group 2:</strong> Identify research and development needs for improvements in information and technology for small-scale food producers to ensure sustainable use of biodiversity; suggest priority action oriented programmes</td>
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<td><strong>Group 3:</strong> Identify needs, and suggest priority approaches for providing support to vulnerable groups through the promotion of agricultural biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30-13.30</td>
<td>Working Groups Activity (Tea/Coffee is available)</td>
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<td>13.30-14.30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30-16.00</td>
<td>Plenary Presentation and discussions of recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee</strong></td>
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<td>17.00-17.30</td>
<td>Review and adoption of the recommended Action Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30-18.00</td>
<td>Closing</td>
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## Annex 2: List of participants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Organization/Contact details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Codjo Bernadin TOTO</td>
<td>Secrétaire Permanent</td>
<td>Plate forme Nationale des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles du Bénin (PNOPPA-Bénin) 07 BP120 Cotonou, Bénin Tél: (+229) 90914135 ou (+229)97603211 email: <a href="mailto:htoober@yahoo.fr">htoober@yahoo.fr</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maurice SANWIDI</td>
<td>Chargé de Programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kouadio Salomon EKRA</td>
<td>Chargé d'Etudes et d’Appui aux filières</td>
<td>Association Nationale des Organisations Professionnelles Agricoles de la Côte d’Ivoire (ANOPACI) 20 BP 937 Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire Tél: +225 22 44 11 76/ Cel: +225 01 42 06 91 Fax: +225 22 48 91 96 Email: <a href="mailto:salomonekrak@yahoo.fr">salomonekrak@yahoo.fr</a> <a href="mailto:salomonekrak@gmail.com">salomonekrak@gmail.com</a> /anopaci@yahoo.fr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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