

October-December 2009

The Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat's newsletter provides regular information on SWAC activities, publications and events.

Overview of topics

- > Pressures on West African land
- > Reflection process on the SWAC's future
- > The RPCA is celebrating its 25th anniversary
- > West African Viewpoints: The RPCA's achievements
- > Security implications of climate change in the Sahel (SICCS)
- > Regional Partnership Compact for Agricultural Development



by Laurent Bossard,
SWAC Director *a. i.*

> DIRECTOR'S EDITORIAL



The last quarter of 2009, the SWAC Secretariat's agenda was very rich in events. The Sahel and West Africa Club revived the tradition of an annual Forum. Key stakeholders concerned by land investment met in Bamako to discuss and define what would be possible to do together on a regional level.

The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) celebrated its 25th anniversary. The times have changed, as well as the stakes involved in food security, but one thing is obvious: all food security actors need to pursue their work within a network approach and promote regional co-operation and mutual responsibility.

In a side-event at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, a debate was organised with the support of the SWAC Secretariat on "*Security implications of climate change in the Sahel*" (SICCS), capitalising on the results of the technical workshop in Dakar which was held last November.

Last but not least, the SWAC's Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) decided to "rethink the Club". A Steering Group, chaired by Mr. Soumaila Cissé, President of the UEMOA Commission, will be in charge of submitting a proposal to the SPG which will meet in Paris on 15 June 2010. This group will also include a member of the ECOWAS Commission and a representative of the CILSS Secretariat as well as three independent experts from OECD member countries. The first session of this group will be held at the UEMOA Headquarters in Ouagadougou on 2 February 2010.

We would like this reflection process to be very open, hoping that a large diversity of viewpoints and visions will be expressed, on the mandate of the SWAC, its members, its geographical coverage, the location of its Secretariat, its functioning, etc. In order to allow the partners and friends of the Sahel and West Africa to contribute to this collective brainstorming, we will soon set-up an electronic forum with discussion groups.

Besides this essential process, the SWAC Secretariat is also in charge of implementing an Interim Programme of Work. Its priorities are focused on achievable targets, with a reduced number of activities adjusted to the means available. It is nevertheless very ambitious. Above all it is a question of helping the countries of the region develop common actions when that is necessary and possible. If they respect the principle of subsidiarity, regional actions are more efficient (including in the field of aid), taking advantage of economies of scale. "*They open spaces and multiply opportunities, prevent or calm tensions. What is important is to do the politics of the possible and realisable*" (> Vision of the African Union).

The SWAC Secretariat joins me in wishing you all a very happy 2010.





Pressures on West African land

Reconciling development and investment policies

Bamako (Mali), 9 December 2009

Bringing together some 200 participants (farmers organisations, agricultural producers, investors, government officials, parliamentarians, representatives from regional organisations, international agencies, research institutes, NGOs, etc.), the Bamako meeting highlighted a large diversity of viewpoints on opportunities and risks related to land transactions. Discussions paved the way for consensual solutions and proposals for co-ordinated actions in West Africa, calling for more synergy between regional institutions. The stakeholders agreed on the need to approach this issue from three angles: human rights, land tenure policies and investment frameworks.

Land is a socially and politically sensitive issue laying at the heart of African societies; it is a source of potential tension and conflict. Respect for the sovereignty of State and the call for dialogue are key factors to make progress in this area.

While pressure on land is not a recent development, the increased pace of such pressure is without precedent. Recalling the opportunities (public and private investment flows boosting West African agriculture) and the risks (related to poor management of natural, food and financial resources), the SWAC President Mr. de Donnea emphasized that concrete results are more likely to be achieved at the regional level.

The Belgian Minister for Development Co-operation, Mr. Charles Michel, recalled that several initiatives and studies are currently underway, including one by the African Union (General framework and guidelines for land policies in Africa). All concerned actors need to be involved to co-ordinate their actions at all levels of intervention.

Reference was made to swift and practical action through support for agricultural reform, the strengthening of human rights, particularly those of women, support for capacities for negotiating with investors and the promotion of land policies that permitted the introduction of “win-win” models as a means of allowing agribusiness and family-owned farms to co-exist.

A broad consensus emerged on the need to foster the **leadership of regional economic organisations** and to promote regional co-operation on this issue in order to avoid “*competition between the lowest bidders*” between countries, to exchange information and best practices, to set out together procedures that are tailored to the realities in West Africa and to the general principles adopted by AU Heads of State in July 2009. ECOWAS, UEMOA and the CILSS have expressed their willingness to work in synergy. The implementation of their proposals within the framework of a West African road map will target the elaboration of **regional regulatory frameworks for responsible investment in land**.

Participating institutions agreed to:

- **Engage in joint initiatives** aiming at deepening the understanding of land issues (> monitoring/ information systems on investments in land);
- **Promote/facilitate exchanges**, consultations and co-operation between West African States and the inclusion of civil society actors in the debate;
- **Develop regional capacities** to provide support to national land policies;
- **Strengthen negotiation capacities of host states** to promote regulatory frameworks that respect human rights principles.

Interpretation of human rights principles in land purchase negotiations

This session was led by Mr. de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, who during the G8 summit set out 11 human rights principles to discipline large-scale land acquisition. These principles need to be considered as “*minimum obligations*”. He stressed that land issues should be examined by West African countries working in concert with each other, and that in that respect West Africa could become a pilot region for the search for solutions on a regional level.

What policy levers can reconcile development and investment issues?

Two private companies (Mali Biocarburants and Biofuels Africa/Ghana) presented their business models for the production, processing and local consumption of biofuels derived from jatropha. Both cases are examples for “*win-win*” partnerships.

Parliamentarians expressed concerns about large-scale investment aimed to produce foodcrops for export, but also hopes concerning the contract-based production of biofuels for the West African market. Lacking information, they declared to be willing to play a more active role in drawing-up rules and the monitoring of government actions. Proposals for action include:

- A parliamentary action on leases involved in land transaction;
- Call for transparency of costs and profits, and the rules and mechanisms governing these transactions; compliance of transactions with national legislation;
- Joint initiatives and actions by parliamentarians from the North and the South to regulate land transactions;
- A regional network to facilitate information-sharing and exchanges among parliamentarians.

Exchange of views by farmers and agricultural producer organisations

Risks, opportunities and human rights in land investments

Land tenure and investment in land have far-reaching implications in both economic and social terms and are therefore key issues for small family-operated farms and their relations with agribusiness. The following viewpoints of farm leaders and producer organisations were expressed:

ROPFA (*Network of Farmer Organisations & Agricultural Producers*)

- The need to keep all land to accommodate future population growth;
- Pursuit of activist policies in support of investment in family-owned farms;
- Stronger advocacy and lobbying by farmers organisations to better defend their position within the State.

All Farmers Association (*Kano region, Nigeria*)

- The need to link agricultural and industrial development;
- A cost-benefit analysis of foreign investment;
- The conviction that responsible investment may prevent current abuses and can have a positive impact on the economy and the environment (ex.: biofuels production for the local market).

Other farmers organisations (*Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger*)

- Risk of “African de-capitalisation” related to foreign investments;
- The need to distinguish between foreign and domestic investment;
- Examples of best practices;
- Support for the developing farmers’ negotiating capacities.

Follow-up actions of the SWAC Secretariat

> Regional study on regulatory frameworks for land transactions in West Africa

Co-ordinated by the SWAC Secretariat, this study analyses coherence between national legal frameworks, local practices (especially local conventions), land transaction procedures and regional investment policies in West Africa. Drawing on five case studies (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal), policy recommendations for decision-makers will aim at promoting investment without restricting land access rights of the local populations. Outcomes of this study will be available in April 2010.

> Contact: leonidas.hitimana@oecd.org

> The OECD Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) applied to agriculture in Burkina Faso

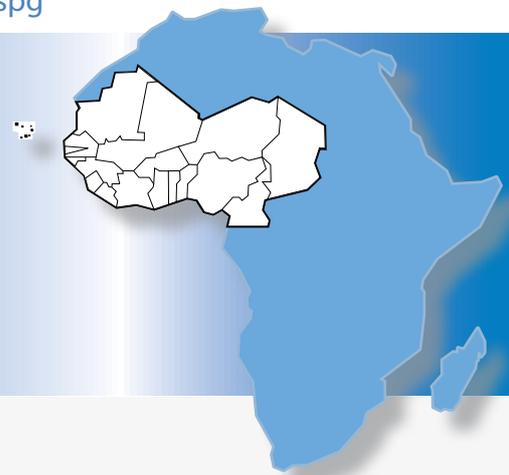
Building on the OECD Policy Framework for Investment, the SWAC Secretariat and the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) analyse how to set up an incentive framework for investment in West Africa. The PFI has already proved to be an effective tool in several countries in Asia, Latin America, North Africa and southern Africa. It proposes political and structural reforms which could particularly support national investment policies as well as the establishment of the regional mobilisation programmes within the framework of the Regional Partnership Compact for the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP (see page 10). An analysis will be conducted in Burkina Faso in 2010 at the request of the Burkinabese government.

> Contact: leonidas.hitimana@oecd.org

> The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Companies, shared with West African actors

These guidelines propose a set of legally non-binding recommendations signed by 39 adhering governments (representing all regions of the world and accounting for 85% of foreign direct investment). Their objective is to encourage responsible business conduct of multinational companies, in line with government policies and social expectations (protection of the environment, respect of human rights, combating bribery and promoting transparency). A revision process of these principles will start in 2010. The SWAC, together with the team of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, will make proposals on how these recommendations could be applied within a West African context. In particular, the SWAC proposes to organise a meeting which will bring together all concerned actors involved in the implementation of these principles and West African actors. This pilot approach targeted towards a non-OECD zone, aims at raising awareness among governments and investors.

> Contact: marie.tremolieres@oecd.org



The SWAC's Strategy and Policy Group Meeting

Bamako (Mali), 10 December 2009

The second day of the SWAC's Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) meeting focused on the SWAC's strategic orientations. SWAC members decided to launch a reflection process on the SWAC's future which will be supported by a Steering Group composed of six personalities. Building on a broad consultation process, this group will elaborate and submit a proposal for a revised SWAC mandate to the next SPG meeting on 15 June 2010 in Paris. The Interim Programme of Work and Budget for 2010 was also approved.

Regional challenges and the SWAC's role

- **Regional approach to development and South-South co-operation:** The SWAC, having pioneered this approach, must continue to make it a priority, while ensuring that it focuses on issues to which such an approach is relevant. It must not overlook sub-regional aspects, in particular UEMOA merits particular attention.
- **North-South platform:** The co-responsibility of the North and the South for West African issues is a determining element. The SWAC Secretariat should allow West Africa to express its views in the debate. As part of the OECD, it could serve as a point of entry for West Africa into global discussions, a transitional area between "global prescription and regional action"; it could also, to a greater extent than in the past, capitalise on the Organisation's expertise by tailoring it to meet needs of West Africa.
- **South-South and South-North platform:** There is a consensus over this dual identity of the SWAC: a capacity/vocation for "drawing in the protagonists to address specific challenges", "exchanging best practices", "pooling national, regional and inter-regional expertise", "building a South-South and North-South consensus based on rational and robust analysis in order to forge a shared vision of solutions".
- **The role of regional organisations within the SWAC:** These organisations have been entrusted with the political mandate for co-operation and regional integration. They must therefore play a central role in the SWAC's activities and in drawing up the Secretariat's programme of work. The SWAC platform should promote synergies between regional organisations in order to avoid the duplication of initiatives and to ensure consistency.
- **Knowledge production and support for innovation:** While it was generally agreed that the Secretariat had to ensure that the debate remained focused on the facts, SPG members stressed that the Secretariat should not be a research centre. A consensus emerged on the need to capitalise on knowledge in the policymaking process.

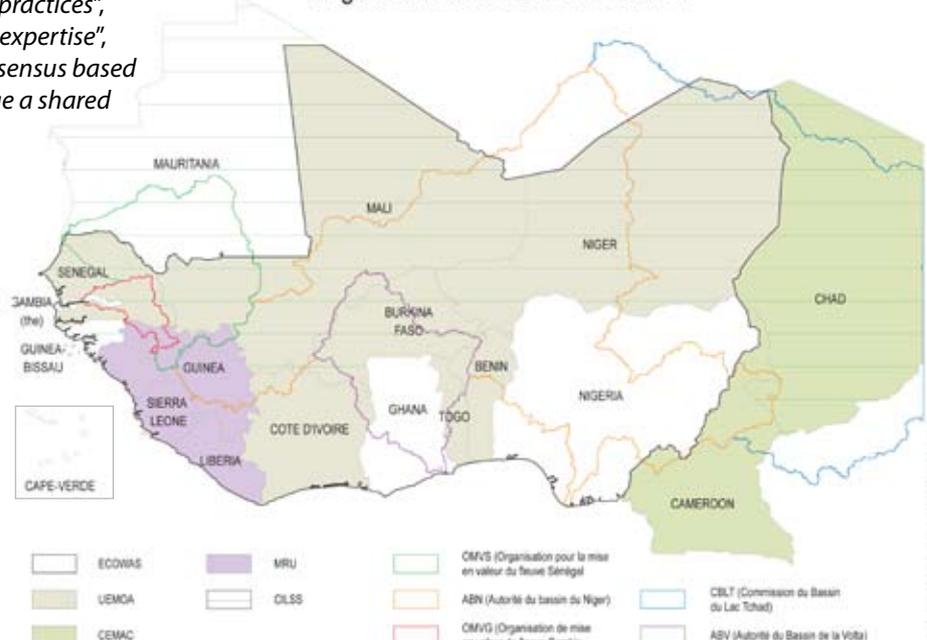
The SWAC's regional partners

The SWAC Secretariat concluded partnership agreements with the following regional organisations:

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), October 2006;
- The Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), October 2006;
- The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), October 2007.

These partnership agreements will be revised, taking into account the outcomes of the reflection process on the SWAC's future.

Regional Institutions in West Africa



Reflection process on the SWAC's future

The SWAC President Mr. de Donnea proposed to the SPG members to launch early 2010 a reflection process to "rethink the SWAC". This process could aim at redefining the SWAC's strategic orientations, its operating modes and localisation of its Secretariat, etc., so as to secure a longer lasting and active commitment (including financial commitments) by its members and stakeholders from the North and the South.

After an exchange of views, the following consensus on the approach was reached:

- 1. Creation of a Steering Group** composed of six people: Three personalities/experts from West Africa (ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS) and three independent personalities/experts from the North. The group will be chaired by Mr. Soumaila Cissé, President of the UEMOA Commission. Terms of reference will be drawn up to serve as a guide for the work of the Steering Group.
- 2. Working procedures:** The Steering Group will be assisted by the SWAC Secretariat and will organise its discussions on the basis of the SWAC's founding documents, orientation papers and other inputs. An electronic discussion forum will allow SPG members and voluntary contributors to actively participate in this consultation process and put forward their analyses and proposals.
- 3. Planning:** The first session of the Steering Group is scheduled on 2 February 2010 at the Headquarters of UEMOA in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). An initial draft proposal is expected to be ready by April 2010. The final proposal shall be submitted to the next SPG meeting on 15 June 2010 in Paris.

> Contact: laurent.bossard@oecd.org



2010 Interim Programme of Work

Priorities

- Negotiation of the "Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management in West Africa" and joint management of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), in collaboration with the CILSS;
- SWAC Annual Forum on South-South co-operation (including regional co-operation) and regional aid effectiveness;
- Support for regional policies (including socioprofessional organisations): livestock, cross-border co-operation and pressures on West African land;
- Regular services to members: monitoring and analysis of regional trends (West Africa Observer, West Africa Gateway, West African viewpoints series, newsletter, etc.), relations with the media, West African studies and communication tools;
- Reflection process on the SWAC's future.

Specific Programmes

- Cross-border co-operation manual;
- Regional responses to the worst forms of child labour in West African cocoa farms;
- Security implications of climate change in the Sahel (SICCS);
- Support for the implementation of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN);
- West African regional migration database;
- Second issue of the West Africa Report (*not yet confirmed*).



Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President and Mr. Laurent Bossard, SWAC Director *a. i.*, Briefing Session with OECD Delegations on SPG meeting outcomes, 6 January 2010, OECD Headquarters, Paris.



The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) in the Sahel and West Africa

Bamako (Mali), 8-11 December 2009

The 25th Annual Network Meeting focused on “*Markets, Local Product Processing and Food Security*”. Following an exchange of views on the agricultural, food and nutritional situation of the agricultural campaign 2009/2010, network members drafted policy recommendations for decision-makers to better prevent and manage food crises.

Agricultural and food situation

The agro-pastoral prospects are good on the whole in the humid countries and in the zones to the west of the Sahel. They are poor or sub-standard in the zones of the eastern Sahel. The prolonged drought has reduced the harvests to the north-east of Mali, in the agro-pastoral zones of Niger and Chad as well as to the North of Nigeria. The risk of a threat from the migrant locust in Mauritania which is a source of concern for the harvests is under control for the time being. The possibilities of off-season farming will be limited in the zones affected by a protracted stoppage of rains because there are low water levels in the water points and the water retention lakes as well as excessive floods.

Provisional cereal production for 2009-2010 in the countries of the Sahel and West Africa with the exception of Liberia and Sierra Leone is estimated at 51 millions tonnes which is a production level equivalent to that of 2008/2009. This production level signals a drop in the Sahel (-9%) whereas it has risen in the coastal countries (+4%).

The poor prospects for agro-pastoral production to the east of the Sahel coupled with the high price of cereals and the possibility of a deterioration of the terms of trade for cattle/cereals in the coming months risk to seriously compromise the food security of the most vulnerable households, particularly during the next lean period which risks starting earlier than expected. This mainly concerns the livestock breeders, agro-livestock breeders as well as the poor urban dwellers that depend on the markets to satisfy their main food needs.

The Network’s recommendations

Network members recommend to:

- **Policymakers** to increase support off-season farming by providing inputs (improved seeds and fertilizers) and to facilitate the implementation of actions and/or measures aimed at acquiring cattle feed, livestock mobility as well as the free circulation of livelihood products in accordance with the regional accords.
- **Stakeholders** (decision-makers, NGOs, aid agencies and development partners) to monitor the co-ordination of actions and/or measures directed at facilitating the access of the most vulnerable populace to basic food, supporting the malnourished and strengthening of the means of existence of the most vulnerable population.
- **Regional information systems** to start in January 2010 a rapid and well tuned analysis of the food and nutritional vulnerability in order to better target the populace affected and to propose appropriate responses so as to mitigate possible crises and strengthen the adaptation capacities particularly among the vulnerable pastoral populace.
- **The CILSS** to accelerate the setting-up of a network of companies/offices in charge of managing the national food security stocks.
- **West Africa’s regional organisations** to give the CILSS the means necessary for extending its monitoring activities throughout the West African region.

The RPCA

Since its creation in 1984, the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) is a unique forum for discussion and exchange on food security issues, facilitating decision-making to better prevent and manage possible food crises. It brings together West Africa’s main food security actors. As an open and informal forum, it analyses the food situation of the region, improves information-sharing among key stakeholders and promotes concerted and consistent actions. The network’s activities consist of biannual meetings, thematic analyses, policy notes for decision-makers, a monthly food security information note and a dedicated website (www.food-security.net). The RPCA is managed by the Secretariats of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) and the Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

> Contact: leonidas.hitimana@oecd.org



THE RPCA IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY...



> www.food-security.net - www.oecd.org/swac/rpca

The RPCA on YouTube

On the occasion of the RPCA's 25th anniversary, the SWAC has collected viewpoints of four founding members (Dramane Coulibaly, Stéphane Jost, Georges Simon et Roy Stacy) who have followed the evolution of the network since its creation.

> Watch these testimonies on YouTube (*French only*):
<http://www.youtube.com/user/SWACoeed>

- The network's origin
- The RPCA today
- Achievements
- The Food Aid Charter
- The network's future



The achievements of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)

*Interview with Prof. Alhousseini Bretaudeau,
CILSS Secretary-General*



The RPCA is celebrating its 25th anniversary. What do you feel its greatest achievement has been over this past quarter of century?

The CILSS plays a key role within the RPCA network, which has progressively developed a close partnership between States and their regional institutions, providing a framework for policy dialogue between governments. This is why policymakers take account of the network's recommendations. In the past fifteen years, there have been no major food crises in West Africa. Why is that? I believe that one of the reasons is the quality and reliability of the information produced within the network.

In addition, the network has played a significant role in demonstrating that food security does not depend solely on agricultural production, but also on markets.

It is also clear to see that there are significant differences in the thresholds at which countries in the region start to talk of a food crisis. In Mauritania, for example, we consider the food situation to be relatively good when production meets around 30% of needs, while in typically agricultural countries, such as Burkina Faso or Mali, the critical threshold is at around 80% of needs. From this point of view, the 2007 crisis was not a crisis in production – it was a crisis over access to food triggered by increases in the price of agricultural products.

It is therefore from the double standpoint of production levels and prices that the food situation needs to be assessed. What was the situation in 2009?

On the whole, agricultural production in 2009 was good, despite falling short of last year's total.

Around 16 million tonnes of cereals were produced in the Sahel, i.e. 9% less than in 2008. In contrast, production in 2009 was 10% above the previous five years' average. In terms of overall production, there is therefore no real cause for concern over the food situation.

However, there are still areas with vulnerable populations. Even in years in which there is adequate rainfall, these vulnerable populations cannot produce enough to meet their food needs and are excluded from the market because of their low purchasing power. It is this segment of the population which we must try to assist, which we must monitor and for which we need to design appropriate means to ensure their food security. I am not talking here solely in terms of rural populations; there are also increasingly large vulnerable groups to be found in urban centres. Failure to manage this problem could lead to deep social crises. The RPCA provides us with tools that give us a clear picture of the situation. It also enables us to propose policy options and initiatives to decision-makers.

The Food Aid Charter was developed within the RPCA network. A revised Charter is being negotiated in West Africa in 2010. What form do you think this negotiation process should take?

Today, food security in West Africa is very high. As the network has matured, we no longer see the type of famine epidemic that used to be common over thirty years ago. However, I think that it is important we remain vigilant. It is essential to have a common yardstick with which to determine which country's needs are the most pressing, in order to avert potentially disastrous situations.

In this respect, the Charter is not a legally binding framework, but a code of good conduct, a moral commitment between West African States and their technical and financial partners.

The Secretariats of the CILSS and the SWAC, West African States and their technical and financial partners – we have all been working together since 2007 to adapt the 1990 Charter and develop a consensual framework tailored to the new realities. This has not been an easy task. People change jobs; new partners enter into the scene; we have to talk to each other, explain things, take account of specific requests, etc. At the end of the day, however, I think that we have come up with a text that on the whole is (90-95%) acceptable to all partners. The aim in the following stages will be to secure its adoption by the States in the region and their regional organisations (CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA) on the one hand, and by their technical and financial partners on the other. I think that we need this Charter. It is not because there are no longer any severe food crises that we no longer need this new Charter. The issue here is one of concerted management and mutual responsibility in the prevention and management of food crisis. We need to move this process forward as soon as possible.

The aim is nonetheless to strengthen Sahelian and West African capacities so that the countries in the region can prevent and manage food crises themselves and thereby dispense with food aid. Is outside support unavoidable?

West Africa and the Sahel have great agricultural potential which could allow the region to feed itself and even to export surplus food.

More investment, better instruments for market regulation and a kinder international context would allow this potential to be fully realised. Having said that, there will always be vulnerable populations which need help. As I said earlier, the RPCA offers a relevant framework in which all stakeholders identify areas with vulnerable populations and draw up consensual recommendations for policymakers and partners specialised in food crisis prevention and management. Working in a network in this way provides an essential tool with which to strengthen capacities to cope with structural vulnerability as well as economic crises.

The 25th annual meeting of the network was devoted to markets and the processing of local products. We often see governments responding to food crises by closing their borders, even though this contravenes the principles of free movement of goods and people. How can we avoid this type of national protectionism?

The issue of the free movement of people and goods falls within the mandate of the President of the UEMOA Commission, Mr. Soumaila Cissé, and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas. Ensuring that these key principles are respected is part of their daily struggle. While it is true that some countries still have protectionist reactions, I nonetheless believe that progress has been made in this area. These are principles which have been adopted at the level of the UEMOA and ECOWAS Conferences of Heads of State. We need to continue working towards their full and complete implementation.

However, issues related to the integration of the regional market cannot be solely limited to the free movement of goods and people. We need to create much more value added by processing a sharply increasing share of our production; we must not content ourselves with simply producing agricultural raw commodities. To give you a very simple example, it will currently cost you about 300 CFA francs to produce a kilo of wheat; you can then use this kilo of wheat to produce around four to five packets of cornflakes.

A packet of cornflakes costs 1 500 CFA francs. Do you see how much value added that makes? I am convinced that we are capable of mass producing such products ourselves. The local processing of foodstuffs is a powerful lever for agricultural development and food security.

The second day of the RPCA meeting was devoted to the topic of "Pressures on West African land" within the SWAC's Strategy and Policy Group meeting. What type of approach would you recommend that West African policymakers adopt to this issue?

First of all, I believe that we need to organise a genuine dialogue with all stakeholders. It is essential that governments work on this issue in conjunction with the rural world and territorial authorities.

Furthermore, I feel that it is important to take account of distinctive characteristics at local or national level: since mentalities and underlying sociological realities differ, we need to find solutions that are tailored to each situation. In most cases, conflicts between States are linked to land issues. Most of the tensions at village level can be attributed to land-related issues. Pressures on land are therefore a very sensitive issue which needs to be taken very seriously and dealt with responsibly to avoid situations getting out of hand. Legislation needs to take account of all the actors concerned by land issues so that they can be resolved to everybody's satisfaction.

Lastly, I think that urgent attention needs to be paid to the specific issue of livestock transhumance. Livestock rearing in the Sahel is still practised extensively and based on transhumance. At present, the land used for transhumance does not belong to anybody. As a result, investors can buy it without livestock farmers being able to stop them. While a crop farmer can at least claim customary rights, a herdsman has none.

Lastly, could you briefly comment on the partnership forged between the CILSS and the SWAC Secretariat?

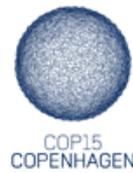
This is a very long-standing partnership that has had its ups and downs. Over the past three years our relations have become far stronger and firmer. At present, there can be no shadow of a doubt about the openness and solidity of relations between the SWAC and the CILSS. We genuinely work together as partners.

Obviously, in the future we would like the SWAC to place greater emphasis in its agenda on advocacy in favour of Sahel and West African States, not only to help them improve and build on what has already been achieved by the food security information system, and therefore by the RPCA, but also to help those countries make the investments needed to boost agriculture.

In my opinion, this mandate, which was originally the mandate of the "Club du Sahel", seems to some extent to have slipped off its agenda and I think that the consultations currently under way show that the Club should renew its efforts in this area. ■

Bamako, 11 December 2009

Side-event at the United Nations Climate Change Conference



UNITED
NATIONS
CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
2009

Copenhagen (Denmark), 14 December 2009

Co-organised by the SWAC Secretariat, the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this side-event presented intermediary results of a multidisciplinary study conducted by the SWAC Secretariat and the UK Meteorological Office Hadley Centre.

How is climate change and variability affecting one of Africa's most vulnerable areas? Does climate impact security and if yes, under what conditions and which interactions?

The debate was introduced by Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti, British Climate and Energy Security Envoy and Brice Lalonde, French Ambassador in charge of international negotiations on climate change. The project aims to raise awareness on potential security implications of climate change in the Sahel, identify policy recommendations and define a regional road map for action.

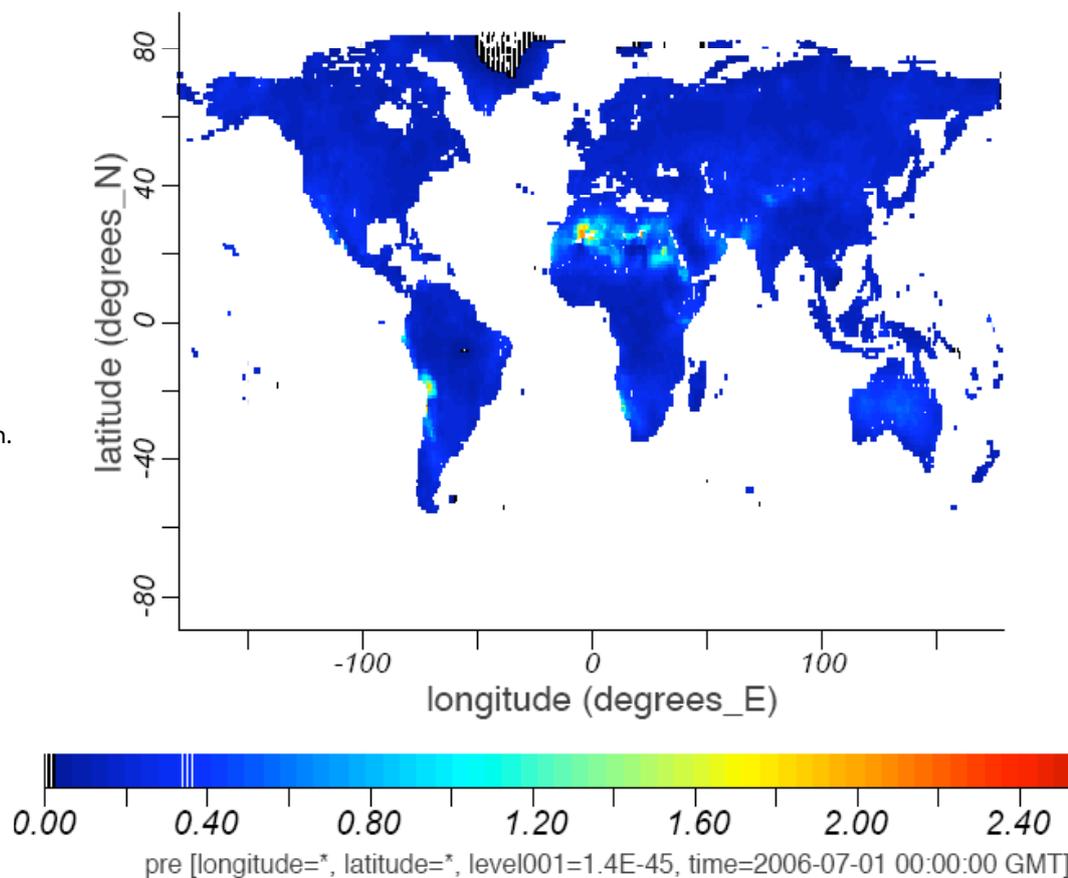
Key findings

The Sahel is one of the regions of the world where the variability of precipitation is the most important (see map). Climate projections for rainfall are highly uncertain with some models predicting a strong dry anomaly, with others predicting strong wet anomalies. For the future, the challenge of this zone is to be able to manage uncertainty rather than to prepare itself for a well identified threat (as for example the rise of the sea level in Bangladesh).

An historical analysis of past security events shows that climate variables have in all cases played a role (aggravating factor, trigger etc.). However, there is no possibility of establishing a systematic link between climate variability and insecurity.

In the short term, one possible policy measure could be to integrate climate variables in early warning systems on conflicts and the analysis of insecurity signals. In addition, there is a strong need to develop better performing climate models (regional models) and forecasting mechanisms.

annual mean of monthly precipitation (1901-2004)



Technical Workshop

> Contact: philipp.heinrigs@oecd.org

Dakar (Senegal), 17 November 2009

This workshop presented a detailed spatial description of the region, localising current features and stakes. A group of 25 experts and partners from various institutions and agencies provided feedback on the outputs, interpreted results and identified missing elements. Participants' expertise in different domains helped underscore some of the implied links between climate and non-climate variables. Discussions led to the identification of variables which seem to be particularly relevant for the Sahel and thematic entries for more detailed case studies (agropastoral issues, access to water, climate exposure, food security and livelihoods).

Presentations

- Socio-economic trends
- Econometric study, Impact of rainfall variability on security in the Sahel region
- Climate change and security: methodology & survey of security events (1969-2007)
- Case study, cross-cutting analysis of climate variability and security (*French*)
- Global 7: A climate prospective
- Spatial description of the Sahel and geo-referenced data, a snapshot
- Toward vulnerability maps

Regional Partnership Compact for Agricultural Development in West Africa

Abuja (Nigeria), 12 November 2009



Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission

The "Regional Partnership Compact for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme" (ECOWAP/CAADP) was signed on 12 November 2009 at the International Conference on Financing Agricultural Policy in West Africa. The Compact expresses the adherence of all stakeholders to the orientations, objectives and institutional and financial dispositions of ECOWAP/CAADP, recognizing it as the sole referential framework for intervention and co-ordination of support to the agricultural sector. The Conference marks the end of a three-year consultation and formulation process of National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs) and the Regional Programme for Agricultural Investment (PRIA) to which the SWAC Secretariat strongly contributed.

Vision

The Regional Compact reiterates the vision and the orientations of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) adopted by the Heads of States and Governments on 19 January 2005:

- The vision is based on "a modern and sustainable agriculture based on the effectiveness and efficiency of family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises (...), productive and competitive in regional and international markets, it should ensure food security and provide decent incomes to agricultural workers."
- The objective is to "contribute in a sustainable manner to the satisfaction of food needs of the population, economic and social development, and the reduction of poverty in member states, as well as the inequalities between territories, zones and countries."

Implementation

ECOWAP constitutes the framework that operationalizes CAADP in West Africa. Its implementation is based on two levels of intervention:

- **The national level**, with the definition of National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs); in November 2009, 9 out of 15 ECOWAS countries have already hold roundtable consultations identifying national priorities and signed partnership compacts with stakeholders. The remaining countries were getting ready to do so.
- **The regional level**, with the design of mobilizing and federating programs complementary to the national programmes. Building on the six components of PRIA, three regional mobilizing programmes have been defined, combining policy reforms and investment:
 - Promotion of strategic products for food sovereignty;
 - Promotion of an overall environment favorable to regional agricultural development;
 - Reduction of food vulnerability and promotion of sustainable access to food.

Each programme is composed of several components. The cost of these three regional mobilization programs is estimated at US\$ 900 million for the next five years.

Institutional framework

The institutional framework is based on:

- Strengthening the guiding and co-ordinating capacities of the ECOWAS Commission office in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water resources;
- The creation of an Inter-departmental Committee for Agriculture and Food in charge of co-ordinating policy reforms;
- The establishment of a Consultative Committee for Agriculture and Food that includes the main actors of the agricultural and food sector;
- The establishment of a Regional Technical Agency for Agriculture and Food to which the ECOWAS Commission will delegate the implementation of the regional programs.

Financing mechanism

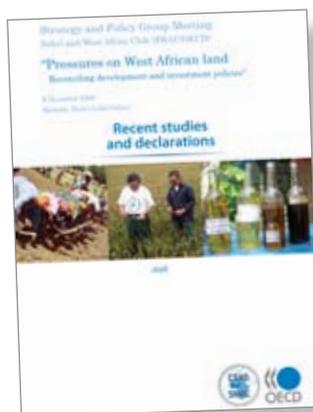
The financing mechanism is based on the creation of a Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food. It will be housed in the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID). Its management rules will permit the pooling of resources and the transparency of their utilization.

Stakeholders

The following stakeholders signed the Regional Partnership Compact:

- ECOWAS member states;
- The ECOWAS Commission;
- The African Union Commission/NEPAD;
- Technical and financial partners;
- Professional organisations of agriculture;
- Civil society organisations and NGOs;
- Private sector.

> Contact: jeansibiri.zoundi@oecd.org



Land acquisition: Recent studies and declarations

This paper is a compilation of studies conducted by the International Land Coalition (ILC), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the SWAC Secretariat on land issues and food security in West Africa. It also presents recent declarations of political actors at the regional and international level. A glossary provides clear definitions of the most important technical terms.

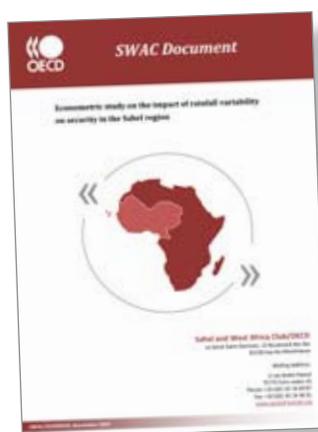
> www.oecd.org/swac/land



West African viewpoints on land issues: Articles and interviews (French)

This document has been prepared by a network of West African journalists. Building on articles and interviews conducted in 12 countries of the region, it analyses land issues and trends in West Africa, opportunities and risks for domestic and international investors as well as their impact on local populations.

> www.oecd.org/swac/land



Econometric study on the impact of rainfall variability on security in the Sahel region

This study is an attempt to analyse and estimate the impact of climate variables on security events. It proposes a two-channel model estimating the impact of climate variability on security events through an agricultural production growth channel and an urbanisation growth channel. The results complement other analyses carried out within the SICCS project (see page 10).

> www.oecd.org/swac/climatechange

Forthcoming events

- Land day on “Land Investment and Development”, organised by the FAO, IFAD and SDC, Rome (Italy), 24 January 2010;
- 7th edition of the ECOWAS Development Partners Annual Co-ordination Meeting, Abuja (Nigeria), 25-26 January 2010;
- Meeting on the Implementation of the Regional Partnership Compact, Lomé (Togo), 29 January-3 February 2010;
- First Session of the Steering Group on the SWAC’s future, UEMOA Headquarters, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 2 February 2010.

SWAC newsletter - contact: julia.wanjiru@oecd.org



Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD)
 Postal Address: 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16 - France
 Office: Le Seine Saint-Germain, 12 bd des Isles, Building B, 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux - France
 Phone: +33 (0)1 45 24 92 42 - Fax: +33 (0)1 45 24 90 31
 E-mail: swac.news@oecd.org / www.westafricaclub.org

