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The Sahel and West Africa Club's monthly newsletter aims to provide regular information on ongoing SWAC activities, publications, upcoming events and other SWAC news.

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BRAINSTORMING ON THE SWAC'S WORK ORIENTATIONS 2008 -2012

During the summer months, the SWAC launched a brainstorming process concerning the main areas of the SWAC's 2008 – 2012 Work Plan. The SWAC team produced an information note for its [Strategy and Policy Group \(SPG\)](#). The note presents an overview of West Africa, the SWAC's actions, results and challenges in 2005-2007, the specificity of the SWAC, its anchoring points, partnerships as well as budgetary constraints. This document will serve as a reference for the SPG meeting to be held at the SWAC headquarters in Issy-les-Moulineaux on 13 and 14 September 2007. To this end, this document proposes a framework for debate punctuated with questions. It is by no means a binding framework, as other issues may be raised by participants. The results of this joint, free and open debate will contribute to the development of a draft five-year Work Plan that will be submitted to the SPG meeting in January 2008 for review and approval.

> download or order the information note: ["Contribution to Discussions on the Orientations of the 2008-2012 Work Plan"](#)

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INTENSIFICATION OF RESOURCE MOBILISATION EFFORTS

Following the recommendations of the SPG members in January 2007, the SWAC has intensified its resource mobilisation efforts. This includes promoting the SWAC to potential new funding countries and approaching private foundations. In this context, the SWAC Director, Mr. Normand Lauzon, met in New York in August 2007 with Representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Clinton Foundation. As a result, opportunities to initiate partnerships between the SWAC and these Foundations have been identified. Follow-up will take place in the coming months.

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FACILITATING A COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The launching workshop of the Regional Programme for Agricultural Investment (PRIA) aiming at facilitating the implementation of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and the NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme was held in Cotonou (Benin) from 7 to 9 August 2007. The action plan defines the following priority areas of work:



1. Improvement of water management
2. Sustainable development of agriculture farming
3. Improvement of natural resources management
4. Development of the agricultural sector and promotion of national, regional and international trade
5. Prevention and management of food crises and institutional capacity-building

The SWAC, represented by Mr. Jean Zoundi, Head of the SWAC's "Rural Transformation & Sustainable Development" Unit, will be responsible for the co-ordination of the priority areas 2 and 5, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the CILSS.

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CLIMATE CHANGE: MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL CENTRE AGRHYMET

A joint SWAC/FAO mission met from 25 to 27 July 2007 with the Regional Agrhyment Centre team (CILSS-CRA) in Niamey, the African "Météopole", to prepare the next chapter of the Atlas on Regional Integration in West Africa on climate and climate change (forthcoming December 2007). The SWAC/FAO team also had an exchange of views with other institutions (ACMAD, FEWS NET, National Environment Council for Sustainable Development, UNECA) with particular interest in climate issues.

This chapter will take stock of existing knowledge on the impact of global climate warming, with a specific view to Africa and West Africa in particular. It will build on the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at the global level, and on the results of advanced research recently conducted by the CRA on climate change in the Sahel as well as on other West-Africa specific work.

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PUBLICATIONS

Atlas on Regional Integration in West Africa: Coffee



Admittedly, West Africa's current share of the global coffee market is not very significant. But it could become so in the coming 20-25 years. Firstly, because coffee is a profitable crop, especially in areas where cocoa cannot be grown. Furthermore, increased freight costs have given West Africa a comparative advantage with a view to global competitiveness. Finally, there are limited possibilities for additional production in other regions of the world. This chapter of the Atlas on Regional Integration in West Africa provides a global overview of world coffee production and consumption and the stakes in international trade. It then analyses the evolution and prospects of the West African coffee market

>> *English version upcoming*

Food Security Information Note, N°12

“Coping with the consequences of flooding!”

The late and irregular rains in July were replaced by flooding affecting many of the Sahelian and West African countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Mauritania, and Senegal. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that approximately 65 000 people were affected by flooding in July and August. What are the consequences for the agricultural and food situation? What stance and what actions need to be taken? This issue also provides a selection of information sources and reference documents.

> [download the Information Note \(N°12\)](http://www.food-security.net) → www.food-security.net

Food Security Information Note, N°11

“A slow start to the rainy season in the Sahel until mid-July 2007”

Besides these seasonal forecasts, the 2007/2008 Agricultural Campaign throughout the Sahel is off to a rocky start due notably to irregular rains. This issue presents a general analysis of the food and agriculture situation in West Africa in July 2007. It also raises some key issues and provides a selection of information sources and reference documents

> [download the Information Note \(N°11\)](http://www.food-security.net) → www.food-security.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

SWAC Strategy and Policy Group Meeting

13-14 September 2007

The SWAC's [Strategy and Policy Group](#) will meet on 13 and 14 September 2007 at its headquarters in Issy-les-Moulineaux. This workshop marks the beginning of a brainstorming process concerning the main areas of the SWAC's Work Plan 2008 – 2012. The discussions will build particularly on the analysis of evolutions taking place in West Africa and the lessons learned from the SWAC's work carried out during the 2005-2007 period. [> learn more](#)



How to reach the SWAC headquarters

Contact: anne.hamilton@oecd.org (registration, logistic arrangements)

Cross-Border Workshop in Katsina (Nigeria)

19-21 September 2007

Following the work launched in 2006 (field mission in May 2006, a [political mission to Niger](#) in February 2007 and a [field mission to the Kano-Katsina-Maridi \(K²M\) cross-border corridor](#) in June 2007), the SWAC is organising from 19 to 21 September 2007, under the auspices of ECOWAS and the Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for Co-operation and in collaboration with FEWS NET, a cross-border workshop on "Food Security & Cross-border Trade". Some concrete proposals for cross-border co-operation actions, identified by local actors, will be presented at this workshop. [> learn more](#)

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All publications can be downloaded from the SWAC website: www.westafricaclub.org

If you wish to receive a paper copy or the electronic version of this newsletter, please contact julia.wanjiru@oecd.org