Rural Transformation and Sustainable Development

The 2005-2007 Work Plan

Since 2002, the SWAC has launched strategic thinking on agricultural transformation, its relationships with agricultural, trade and international policies, the relationships between agricultural transformation, land tenure and conflict dynamics as well as access to agricultural innovation, in particular for family farming and vulnerable populations.

All of this strategic thinking lies within the framework of fostering sustainable food security and contributing to poverty reduction in relation to the first Millennium Development Goal. In fact, since the 1960s, agricultural and livestock production in the region have increased considerably. However, this increase has remained slightly below the rate of population growth.

At the same time, the sector is facing a wide range of constraints, whether natural and climatic (drought, climate change, locust outbreaks, etc.), socio-economic and political (agricultural and trade policies, conflicts, etc.), or technical (especially access to agricultural services and innovations, the professionalisation of actors, etc.).

Consequently, the agricultural production sector still faces the major challenge of meeting demand from a rapidly growing, increasingly urbanised population, along with the challenge of creating jobs and contributing to poverty reduction, notably in rural areas.

The activities carried out by the Rural Transformation and Sustainable Development Unit in 2006 are based on the challenges linked to food security and poverty reduction, to transformation of the rural environment and to agricultural and trade policies in relation to strengthening the regional market. They thereby take account of the issues identified in the orientations of the 2005-2007 Work Plan and continue the ongoing initiatives launched in 2005.

Methodological approach

The methodological approach adopted by the Unit is based on a holistic, multi-disciplinary vision integrating economic, socio-cultural, political and monetary aspects. In order to better reflect the complexity and complementarity of analyses, the “Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development” Unit has been renamed the “Rural Transformation and Sustainable Development” Unit. The activities carried out by the Unit now cover food crops, cash crops, livestock, fisheries, natural resources management (including land), seasonal non-agricultural activities on farms, interaction between rural and urban areas, and interaction between agricultural and non-agricultural activities in order to improve livelihoods for rural communities. Through its methodology, the Unit has concentrated on a consultative and participatory approach, working in partnership with a wide range of local, regional and international actors. This approach combines field visits, electronic consultations, workshops as well as the drafting and distribution of documents, and ties in with dynamics on the ground.

Analyses are based on experiences and initiatives that are linked to other initiatives with a broader scope than West Africa alone, such as those led by AfDB, FAO, IFAD, NEPAD, UNDP, UNECA and the World Bank. Following the analyses, workshops and other events, synthesis notes (Policy Notes) are produced on strategic areas of interest aimed at decision-makers. These notes provide decision-makers and other actors on the ground with access to the results of analyses, allowing them to translate these results into operational action to drive change.
Results expected and achieved

In the 2005-2007 Work Plan, the Unit focused on a certain number of strategic questions, as follows:

- **What are the key characteristics of agricultural transformation underway in West Africa?** Related to this, the main results expected are: (i) a summary of work on the stakes of biotechnology in West Africa and the consultation with regional actors on this issue; (ii) a contribution to the implementation of the operational plan on agricultural biotechnology in West Africa; (iii) an analysis of the economic and social challenges for cotton in African countries.

- **Which agricultural, trade and monetary policies hinder the sustainable development of agriculture and their impacts on regional development?** The results expected are: (i) a feasibility study carried out jointly with the Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (AGR/OECD) on the assessment of the impact of agriculture and trade policies in West Africa; (ii) participation in the task force on the implementation of ECOWAP (the ECOWAS agricultural policy); (iii) the launch of an initiative on the challenges and perspectives for livestock production in West Africa with a view to fostering more dynamic internal trade within West Africa.

- **What is the relationship between agricultural transformation, natural resources, land tenure and conflict dynamics? What regional approaches are needed?** The results expected are: (i) an in-depth analysis of the role of land tenure in agricultural transformation and conflicts in West Africa; and (ii) a better understanding of the land reform processes in West Africa. This analysis presents a global view and a regional synthesis of land reforms underway in West Africa.

- **What can be done at the regional level to set up a system to better monitor pest outbreaks such as desert locusts and other natural threats and ensure coordinated response mechanisms? How can monitoring and action be improved in the medium and long term?** The results expected are: (i) contribution to the ECOWAS meeting on the implementation of a regional strategy for the prevention and control of avian flu in West Africa; (ii) support ECOWAS in the organisation of a regional meeting on the implementation of regional response mechanisms to fight locust outbreaks in the medium and long term.

In reference to these questions and taking into account the recommendations of the German and Canadian evaluation missions, the Unit’s 2006 activities have been refocused around the following themes:

A. **Sustainable food security in the Sahel and West Africa;**
B. **Agriculture and trade policies;**
C. **Rural Transformation.**
The main strategic questions guiding this initiative are: How can sustainable food security be achieved in the Sahel and West Africa region? How can we break the pattern of recurrent circumstantial food crises affecting the region since the droughts of the 1970s?

The aim for the Club and its regional partners is to implement joint actions concerning: 1) the implementation of policies through the application of recommendations made during meetings of the Food Crisis Prevention Network in the Sahel and West Africa (FCPN); 2) exploration of prevention, monitoring, warning and rapid action mechanisms in response to pest infestations and other natural disasters affecting food security; 3) the support of dynamics on the ground aimed at finding solutions to the structural causes of food insecurity in the region,

Several joint initiatives have been set up in collaboration with regional actors:

- Co-organisation with the CILSS of the FCPN meetings in April and December 2006. Several important points were addressed during these meetings, including a review of the food situation, the impact of the avian flu on food security, methodological issues concerning food crisis monitoring and prevention mechanisms (notably taking account of nutritional aspects, the quality of statistics and the move from a cereal balance sheet to a food balance sheet), and a review of the implementation of FCPN recommendations on food security (see Box 1).

- SWAC-CILSS joint design and development of an FCPN web-site on food security in the Sahel and West Africa, following one of the network’s recommendations.

- SWAC-CILSS joint implementation of an initiative on cross-border cooperation and food security in the prevention and management of food crises. This is the result of a dynamic partnership with the Local Development and the Process of Regional Integration Unit (LDPRI) following the results of the CILSS, SWAC, FEWS-Net, OCHA, WFP, WAMIS-Net and UNICEF joint mission in May 2006 to the Kano – Katsina – Maradi (K²M) cross-border region (see item 2.3.3 below).

- Launch of SWAC-CILSS-ECOWAS joint strategic thinking on the establishment of a regional monitoring, warning and response mechanism for desert locust outbreaks in the Sahel and West Africa.

- Support of dynamics on the ground and participation in initiatives aimed at finding solutions to the structural causes of food insecurity. This especially concerns the Club’s commitment to the key issue of water management for sustainable food security by contributing to the following actions: (i) SARDI (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative), a partnership with IFAD, FAO, and WFP in collaboration with regional actors, notably the CILSS, ECOWAS and UEMOA; (ii) Initiative in preparation and “Valorisation of inland valley water potential”, a partnership with the Africa Rice Center (WARDA), FAO and the CILSS.
Results expected

a. Implementation of recommendations set forth during the FCPN meetings;
b. Contribution to strengthening and regenerating the FCPN and regional actors in terms of the prevention and management of food crises;
c. Strengthen dynamics on the ground aimed at the structural causes of food insecurity.

Results achieved

The principal results achieved include:

a. The design and development of the FCPN’s independent Web-site on food security. This will serve as a source of impartial information for different audiences (political decision-makers, development partners, producers, civil society, the media, scientists and academics, etc.) and will contribute to decision-making;
b. The regular publication of an Information Note on Food Security (INFS) since July 2006. This provides a source of analysis and information for the different actors concerned with the food security situation in the Sahel and West Africa;
c. The establishment of a system for monitoring the implementation of recommendations made during FCPN meetings.

These various results have raised awareness and commitment among regional actors in finding solutions to the structural causes of food crises. They have also helped strengthen actors’ commitments to the key issue of cross-border cooperation and food security in the region and the mechanisms to be developed at the local and regional levels in order to address this issue.

Likewise, the regular publication of the Information Note on Food Security (INFS) provides all actors with a global analysis of the situation, which facilitates decision-making for action.

Regenerating the FCPN and Strengthening the SWAC-CILSS Partnership concerning Food Security

Within the framework of the partnership between the CILSS and the SWAC for the management of the FCPN, a suggestion was made regarding the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of recommendations on food security to ensure that proposals made during the network’s meetings do not go unheeded. This was in response to the acknowledgement that the network’s meetings were held as planned, but decisions made were not followed up; this situation had begun to affect the credibility of the network as a framework for analysis and concerted action on food security issues in the region.

The FCPN meeting held in April 2006 in Paris marked an important turning point in the commitment of the Club, of regional partners and of the community of partners concerning the prevention and management of food crises in the region. The meeting was therefore the opportunity to carry out a critical analysis of the implementation of food security recommendations from 2000 to 2006. In accordance with recommendations made during the meeting in December 2005, the CILSS and the SWAC undertook to strengthen their partnership in order to ensure recommendations made do not go unheeded. A monitoring and assessment mechanism coordinated by the SWAC and the CILSS has consequently been set up. For each FCPN meeting, a summarised review is now made and presented to members of the network, indicating what has been achieved, the recommendations that have not been implemented and the reasons for this. Each member of the network is invited to participate actively in activities linked to network recommendations that concern them.

This mechanism has helped to increase the accountability and commitment of each of the actors concerned.

Similarly, again with a view to strengthening the credibility of the network and remobilising its members, the CILSS and the SWAC undertook to combine their efforts to set up an independent FCPN Web-site on food security and to resume CILSS-SWAC joint assessment activities concerning the application of the principles of the Food Aid Charter.
B. Agriculture and Trade Policies

This strategic theme aims to provide answers to the following questions: What policies must be implemented in order to meet the first MDG, in other words eradicating hunger and poverty? How can the regional market be promoted in order to create greater coherence between regional trade policies (especially the ECOWAS CET and EPAs) and agricultural policies (ECOWAP) and thereby allow the region to benefit from structural change of the regional and international economy?

The Club has put a good deal of effort into the implementation of joint initiatives with regional actors with a view to contributing to the following sectors:

- Developing agricultural networks and trade policies;
- Managing natural resources (water, land and combating desertification);
- Contributing to policy debates at the regional and international levels and strengthening the regional market.

(a) Developing agricultural sub-sectors and trade policies

A certain number of joint initiatives have been implemented with various partners in the region:

The CILSS, UEMOA, ECOWAS, ROPPA and SWAC joint initiative on “The Future for Livestock Rearing in the Sahel and West Africa: Potentials and Challenges with the Perspective of Strengthening the Regional Market”. The statistics and analyses available indicate that the proportion of imports of non African origin of animal products has grown considerably over the last 30 years, whereas Sahelian countries have high potential for producing animal products. The analysis will aim at better understanding constraints and opportunities in the livestock sector with a view to making proposals for strengthening the regional market for animal products and combating food insecurity. This especially implies capitalising on complementarities between Sahelian countries and coastal countries, while taking into account of economic and environmental stakes. This initiative falls within the framework of the implementation of ECOWAP, especially its section on the analysis of agricultural sub-sectors.

- The SWAC-ROPPA joint initiative on “analysing the impact of agricultural and trade policies on food security”. This analysis aims to ensure greater integration of the principles of the Food Aid Charter in agricultural and trade policy-making at the regional level as well as in bilateral food cooperation policies.

- Aquaculture and the sustainable management of fisheries resources. This initiative, carried out in partnership with the Medium- and Long-Term Development Perspectives Unit, follows the Roundtable organised by the Club in June 2006 on shrimp farming opportunities in West Africa. The study published in 2006 on economic opportunities in this sector enabled the SWAC to work with Asian partners and other international institutions (FAO, World Bank) on the development of aquaculture. This sector is very important for livelihoods in the region. The analysis produced by this study placed particular emphasis on the need to learn from the experience of Asian countries and on the possibilities for South-South cooperation. The SWAC will continue to work with regional partners (ENDA, research centres), international partners (OECD, FAO, World Bank) as well as the private sector with a view to fostering dialogue on policy coherence and natural resources management of fisheries and aquaculture. This initiative also contributes to the implementation of ECOWAP, notably in relation to the challenges linked to food security, poverty reduction and strengthening the regional market. The partnership established with the FAO and the OECD Fisheries Division focuses on fostering South-South cooperation between regional actors and those from Asian countries.
• **Analysis of the challenges and stakes linked to the introduction of agricultural biotechnology in West Africa.** This work involves summarising documentation and consulting actors on the ground, and has served to fuel the formulation process for a regional policy and the creation of a regional action plan on agricultural biotechnology in the ECOWAS zone. This initiative has also fuelled strategic thinking on this issue within the network of actors, notably during the 9th REPO-Net (Research – Extension – Producers’ Organisations Partnership Network in West and Central Africa) regional workshop on “GMOs: Challenges and Opportunities – What insights for research and agricultural extension institutions and professional agricultural organisations?”, which took place from 13 to 17 November 2006 in Bobo Dioulasso.

(b) **Natural resources: water, land and combating desertification**

• Further to SPG recommendations on the importance of analysing links between land and conflict dynamics, a first phase of the initiative on “Land, Agricultural Change and Conflict in West Africa: Regional Issues from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire” was launched in 2005. A review of land reforms in each West African country and at the regional level as well as development partners’ contributions to land reforms was produced in collaboration with LandNet. This review especially served to lead debates during the consultation organised by the CILSS from 14 to 17 November 2006 in Bamako on the appraisal of Praïa+9.

(c) **Contribution to policy debates at the regional and international levels**

• **Global Forum on Agriculture** organised by the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) in May 2006. The Unit was invited to participate as a discussant on the issue of the feasibility of implementing pro-poor agricultural policies in West Africa.

• **Support for African Agriculture Project** (SAAP) coordinated by the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD). The Club contributed to debates as a discussant on the issues of partnerships in the implementation of national agricultural and rural development policies during the regional workshop from 3 to 4 October 2006 in Saly (Senegal) on “Fostering country-owned strategies for agriculture and rural development”.

• **Forum on “Food sovereignty”** organised from 7 to 10 November 2006 by ROPPA under the aegis of H.E. Mamadou Tandja, President of the Republic of Niger and President of ECOWAS and UEMOA. In addition to its support in organising the meeting, the SWAC also analysed the integration of the Food Aid Charter principles in agricultural, economic, trade and food cooperation policies in terms of achieving food sovereignty. The SWAC is also supporting ROPPA in publishing the Acts of this Forum.

• Thematic working groups on the implementation of the **ECOWAS regional agricultural policy** (ECOWAP). The Unit actively contributed to the adoption of the regional strategy aimed at harmonising avian flu control policies in West Africa.

• **The presentation of the results of the historical analysis of the role of land in conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire during the International Conference, “At the frontier of land issues: Social embeddedness of rights and public policy”** organised by several research centres and cooperation agencies in Montpellier in May 2006.

• **Contribution to international debate on livestock production under the FAO-LEAD, ILRI and CGIAR (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) initiative** on “Livestock in a Changing Landscape: Drivers, Consequences and Responses”, during which the results of the livestock initiative fuelled debate on the challenges and opportunities for this sector.

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1 Land, Agricultural Change and Conflict in West Africa: Historical review to contribute to future debate and action, Information Note No.6, Paris. SWAC (2005).
Results expected:

a. Contribution to regional strategic thinking on medium- and long-term development opportunities for the cotton industry in relation to the challenges raised by international trade policies;

b. Contribution to strategic thinking on the opportunities for strengthening the West African regional market for agricultural products in a context marked by trade liberalisation, but also by the growing influence of emerging countries (especially China and India);

c. Contribution to the debate on the management of conflicts linked to the use of natural resources and land security, and on the global issues of the free movement of populations and goods and the establishment of West African citizens within the ECOWAS zone;

d. Contribution to strategic thinking on the medium- and long-term vision for the region’s livestock sector, taking account of challenges for the implementation of ECOWAP, especially in terms of food security, poverty reduction and the strengthening of the regional market for agricultural products.

Results achieved:

a. Contribution to a better understanding of stakes and challenges linked to livestock and to the strengthening of the vision of regional integration in terms of promoting the opportunities of the sector;

b. Contribution to the analysis of stakes linked to the introduction of agricultural biotechnology in Africa and to regional policy-making in this field;

c. Contribution to the analysis of land issues and to the development of a land policy framework in the region.

The results of strategic thinking launched on biotechnology and land reforms have significantly contributed to regional policy-making in the different areas. Similarly, the different notes to decision-makers produced during the regional debate on livestock have been used extensively in international policy-making in the sector, especially under the FAO-LEAD, ILRI, CGIAR initiative, thus fostering better synergy between the different initiatives.

C. Rural Transformation

The key questions linked to this initiative are the following: What is the future for the rural population, which currently represent over three quarters of the population suffering extreme poverty and food insecurity? What are the implications of this transformation of the rural environment in terms of policies and investment strategies to be implemented immediately in the rural agricultural sector as a whole?

- Faced with the main challenges linked to food security, demographic expansion and economic growth, the Club has undertaken an analysis of the transformation of the rural environment by 2025. The aim of this SWAC-ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS-ROPPA-Hub Rural joint initiative is to enable regional actors to look at the future of rural environment. This strategic thinking, which covers several subjects, gives high priority to the key issue of the future of rural youth and the transformation of rural societies. The aim is to analyse the principal levers governing these changes, to gain a better understanding of changes and also to identify the implications in terms of policies and investment strategies in the rural sector as well as the actions to be implemented immediately. This strategic thinking was launched in the last quarter of 2006 and will continue into 2007.
Results expected

a. Providing a better understanding and assessment of the principal levers governing transformation of the rural environment over the next 20 years;

b. Enabling the construction of a prospective vision of the future of rural populations and its implications for development policies and investment in the rural agricultural sector in the various countries and at the regional level;

c. Developing concrete proposals in terms of strategies and policies for mobilising funding and investment in the rural and agricultural sectors.

Results achieved

A concept note was produced in order to encourage dialogue with the various partners concerned by this initiative, which is expected to culminate in mid-2007 with the organisation of a regional forum on “transformation of the rural environment in the Sahel and West Africa: vision and implications for development and investment policies by 2025”.

Partnerships

(a) Partnerships in the Sahel and West Africa

The arrival of the new Head of Unit in May 2006 was the opportunity to strengthen cooperation with regional institutions (ECOWAS, ROPPA, the CILSS, SAFGRAD, etc.).

- The CILSS and the SWAC went one step further in strengthening their partnership with the signing of a cooperation framework on 31 October 2006, setting out the main joint initiatives to be implemented over the next few years (see item 1.3.1).

- The process of strengthening the partnership with ROPPA was reinforced between June and October 2006, and should lead to the signing of a cooperation framework in 2007. In 2006, the SWAC and ROPPA worked together on several joint initiatives, including: (i) support for ROPPA in organising a forum on food sovereignty in November 2006 and (ii) the formulation of its initiative on access to land for women agricultural producers.

- UEMOA has been involved in discussions on the challenges and opportunities for livestock in West Africa, and exchanges are underway concerning initiatives on rural transformation by 2025 and land tenure policies and reforms.

- Contact has been made with several organisations dealing with scientific and technological concerns, including SAFGRAD², CORAF/WECARD³ and WARDA. The strengthening of the partnerships focused especially on natural resources management and sustainable development.

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² Semi-Arid Africa Agricultural Research and Development of the African Union (AU/SAFGRAD).
³ West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development.
(b) Partnerships at the international level and within the OECD

A SWAC-DCD joint publication was produced on the economic and social challenges for cotton in West Africa. The aim is to provide better information for all actors involved in trade negotiations on cotton. The partnership with the DCD makes it possible to circulate the results of the analysis to all OECD delegations that receive the OECD’s publication, “The Development Dimension”.

The Unit works closely with the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD/OECD) in the implementation of the Support for African Agriculture Project (SAAP). Three pilot countries (Cameroon, Ghana and Mali) are concerned and the analysis focuses on national agricultural policy coherence and recipient ownership. It also has regular exchanges with the OECD’s Development Centre on issues relating to agriculture and trade policy coherence with a view to strengthening the West African regional market.

The Unit also works with POVNET – a subsidiary body of the OECD’s DAC – on agriculture, especially issues linked to pro-poor agricultural growth. The Unit also works with the OECD’s Fisheries Division in the promotion of aquaculture and fisheries policy coherence.

The Unit works with specialised institutions, especially FAO, FIDA and FEWS-Net, on food security issues, the promotion of aquaculture and “Rural transformation by 2025”.

Communications

In 2006, new Web pages on food security were set up on the SWAC web-site, thereby providing a forum for information exchange on the issues and challenges the region must confront.

The SWAC has been approached on numerous occasions by the African, pan-African and international media for interviews on cotton and food security.

Reports have been distributed among SWAC partners, especially documents on the economic and social challenges for cotton in West Africa, land reforms, agricultural biotechnology, etc.

Since July 2006, monthly Information Notes on the food situation have been distributed to a broad audience: members of the Food Crisis Prevention Network, West African Ambassadors based in Paris, SPG members, the media, cooperation agencies, etc.

A website for the Food Crisis Prevention Network has been set up in collaboration with the CILSS and the French Cooperation Agency. This independent site aims to provide regularly summarised, consensual information on the food situation, which is analysed by members of the FCPN. It complements and valorises the information provided by specialised institutions on the prevention and management of food crises in West Africa.

In order to facilitate decision-making, notes to decision-makers have been produced, especially concerning livestock production opportunities in the region. This type of document presents clear and concise political messages aimed at fostering decision-making for action. The same approach will be used for the Unit’s other analysis work.

Finally, the Food Crisis Prevention Network meetings have benefited from significant media coverage: notably press conferences in which several lead media entities have participated: Africa No. 1, Agence pan Africaine de Press (PANA), Agence de presse espagnole (EFE), Faim & Développement Magazine, Jeune Afrique, People TV, Radio France Internationale (RFI), RFO/AITV, United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, etc.
The work carried out in 2006 is a continuum from work started in 2005, and the Unit has focused on providing responses to field-based requests.

Most of the results achieved were made possible by the significant development of partnerships with experts and different actors in order to better inform decisions and actions on the ground in the region.

The Unit’s activities in 2006 were particularly marked by the sustained commitment of the SWAC to work on food security in collaboration with the regional organisations. The strengthening of the partnership between the Club, the CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA and ROPPA on the issue of food security focused on two main themes:

a. Increased investment in strategic thinking and finding solutions to problems linked to food insecurity, notably those concerning water conservation and the valorization of agricultural innovation.

b. Exploring mechanisms for the sustainable management of disasters affecting food security, such as desert locusts, avian flu, etc.

The initiative launched by the Unit on “Transformation of the Rural Environment by 2025” is attracting the interest of principal partners (ECOWAS, the CILSS, UEMOA, ROPPA and Hub Rural) and will be a priority issue for the Unit in 2007.

The arrival of the new Head of Unit provided the opportunity to strengthen the team and to give new impetus to the implementation of the various initiatives set out in the 2005-2007 Orientation Plan. For example, a new monthly bulletin assessing the food situation in West Africa has been created.

The Unit’s contributions to controversial subjects, such as negotiations on international trade in cotton and the adoption of agricultural biotechnology, have once again demonstrated the SWAC’s value added as a facilitator providing impartial information and asking strategic questions, without claiming to have ready-made solutions. The same applies to analysis of the land issue at the regional level. Given the sensitive nature of this issue, the major challenge will involve bringing debates to the regional level in order to identify coherent land reform processes based on the principle of subsidiarity between laws, regulations, practices and institutions at the local, national and regional levels.

West Africa faces the dual challenge of building and strengthening a solid regional market and providing access to international markets for the region’s actors. Trade issues are becoming increasingly important, especially with the implementation of the ECOWAS CET and the EPAs. It is within this context that an initiative focused on the strategy for strengthening the West African regional market in relation to trade policies is planned for the first quarter of 2007. It will involve: regional economic organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS); producers (ROPPA, the IFAP Africa Committee); processors and other private sector operators (INTERFACE network); other civil society actors; and the OECD Development Centre. It will also provide the means to explore market opportunities presented to the region by emerging countries: China, India and Pakistan.

In 2006, certain priority activities were not implemented due to calendar conflicts. This particularly concerns the SWAC-ECOWAS-CILSS-UEMOA joint initiatives on (i) the land policy framework in relation to the AU-UN-ECA and AIDB initiative on land and (ii) the SWAC-CILSS-ECOWAS joint initiative aimed at setting up a regional monitoring, warning and response mechanism for desert locust infestations. These initiatives will be a priority in the 2007 programme.