

WEST AFRICA Centers of Excellence and Contact Details for the West and Central Africa Council for Agriculture Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD)

1. NARS Centers of Excellence in West Africa

Country	Host NARS	Centre of Excellence for:	Leading Research Center
Ghana	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	Roots and Tubers	Crop Research Institute (CRI)
Mali	Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER/CNS Riz)	Rice (irrigated)	IER- Rice (Niono, Sikasso and Mopti)
Senegal	Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole (ISRA)	Dry Cereals (millet, sorghum, maize and fonio)	Centre d'Etudes Régional pour l'Amélioration de l'Adaptation à la Sécheresse (CERAAS)
Burkina Faso	Conseil National de Recherche Scientifique et Technique) (CNRST)	Fruits and Vegetables	Institute de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA)
Côte d'Ivoire	Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA)	Banana and Plantain	Centre de Recherche d'Azagué
Nigeria	Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)	Fisheries (aquaculture)	National Institute for Fresh Water Fisheries Research (NIFFR)
Sierra Leone	Rokupr Rice Research Station	Rice (upland and swamp)	Rokupr Rice Research Station
Benin	Institut National National de Recherche agronomique du Bénin (INRAB)	Maize	Institut National National de Recherche agronomique du Bénin (INRAB)
Niger	Institut National de Recherche agricole du Niger (INRAN)	Livestock	Institut National de Recherche agricole du Niger (INRAN)

NARS were designated to host Centers of Excellence for particular crops. Choices for a country to host a particular Center of Excellence were based on studies that CORAF commissioned IFPRI to do, and which resulted in the identification of those commodities that contribute significantly to increasing the GDP of the country.

2. The role of CORAF/WECARD's in coordination of the Centers of Excellence:

(i) Assist in organizing regional planning workshops in order to plan and assess progress made in implementation of activities and ensuring the regional character of these Centers hosted by National Institutions;

(ii) Provide advice;

(iii) Facilitate identification of regional research priorities such as updated regional reference survey; advisory body for the national supply chain and benchmark studies;

(iv) Facilitate the exchange of expertise in the region as well as access to medium and long-term training programs;

(v) Mobilize specialized technical assistance.

3. Contact details for the West and Central Africa Council on Agriculture Research and Development

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