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## **Regional Agriculture Office**

**Candace Buzzard, Office Director**  
**Elizabeth Brown, Office Deputy Director**  
**Kathryn Begeal, Agriculture Officer**  
**Patience Charway, Program Assistant**  
**Danielle Knueppel, Agriculture Officer**  
**Evans Lartey, Program Specialist**  
**Jorge Oliveira, Food Security Advisor**  
**Maurice Shines, Agriculture Officer**



## Overview

- **Initiatives**
  - Feed the Future
  - Joint Planning Cell (JPC) / AGIR
    - Resilience in the Sahel
  - G8 New Alliance for Growth
    - Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire
- **Number of projects** – 10 (Regional /Bilateral)
- **Yearly Budget** – \$20 Million
- **Context:**
  - Agriculture accounts for 35% GDP
  - 70 % of the region's population relies on agriculture for their livelihood.
  - Poverty (under \$1.25/day): 54%
  - Child stunting: 36.7%





## Key Regional Partners

- **ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)**
  - 15 member countries
  - In 2005 adopted the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), as an instrument for the coordination of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), the agricultural component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), within the region.
  - The ECOWAP policy has a vision of “a modern and sustainable agriculture, based on the effectiveness and efficiency of family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises through the involvement of the private sector. Productive and competitive in the intra-Community and International markets, it must ensure food security and remunerative incomes to its workers”.

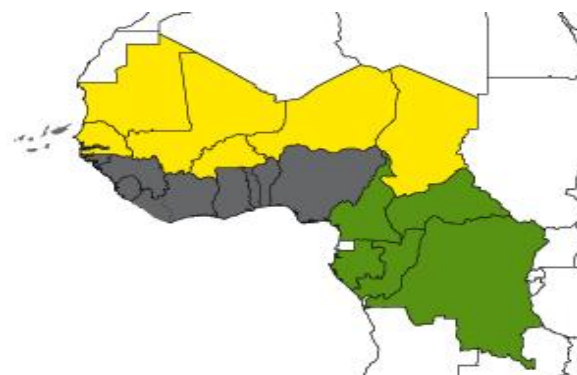




## Key Regional Partners (cont.)

- **CORAF (West and Central Africa Council on Research and Development)**
  - 21 member countries
  - Mission: Sustainable improvements to the competitiveness, productivity and markets of the agricultural system in West and Central Africa by meeting the key demands of the sub-regional research system as expressed by target groups.
- **CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)**
  - 9 member countries
  - Mandate: to invest in research for food security and the fight against the effects of drought and desertification for a new Sahel ecological balance.

CORAF



CILSS







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## West Africa Feed the Future Strategy

Aligned with the ECOWAS CAADP (ECOWAP)

Three core investment areas:

- **Improved Sustainable Agricultural Productivity**
  - climate smart production; access to improved seeds, fertilizers and extension services
- **Increased Regional Trade**
  - Food Security is a REGIONAL ISSUE: Intraregional trade is key
  - maize, millet, sorghum, livestock, and rice
- **Enhanced Institutional Capacity**
  - Focus on regional agricultural organizations



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## West Africa Feed the Future Policy Priorities

### **Agricultural Input Policy:**

- Facilitate regional policies that integrate West Africa's input markets to increase smallholder productivity. Harmonize seed regulations in West Africa to create a regional Free Seed Trade Zone and private sector seed production.

### **Agricultural Trade Policy:**

- Establish transparent trade regimes that reduce tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, specifically for staple crops. Facilitate implementation of the ECOWAS free trade agreement and simplifying administrative procedures particularly for staple foods at border crossings ECOWAS and national governments reduce restrictions on staple food exports.

### **Institutional Architecture for Improved Policy Formulation & Implementation of Reforms:**

- Develop monitoring capacity & engage Member States on commitments. Develop expertise in harmonizing a regional fertilizer and seed policy. Develop expertise in trade and transportation policy, research, and analysis.

### **Nutrition:**

- Implement mandatory legislation, quality assurance programs and increase industry and public awareness for improved nutrition. Enforcement of fortification legislation, manufacturing practices and quality assurance systems.



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## Improved Sustainable Agricultural Productivity

- **West Africa Seed Program**
  - Increase availability of certified seeds , increase private sector seed production, and improve cross-border seed trade.
- **West Africa Fertilizer Program**
  - Increase fertilizer quality and availability, assist countries to adopt new ECOWAS regional fertilizer regulations, provide financing linkages.
- **West African Cotton Improvement Program**
  - Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad and Mali
  - Increase smallholder productivity and ginning efficiency.



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## Increased Regional Trade in Key Ag. Commodities

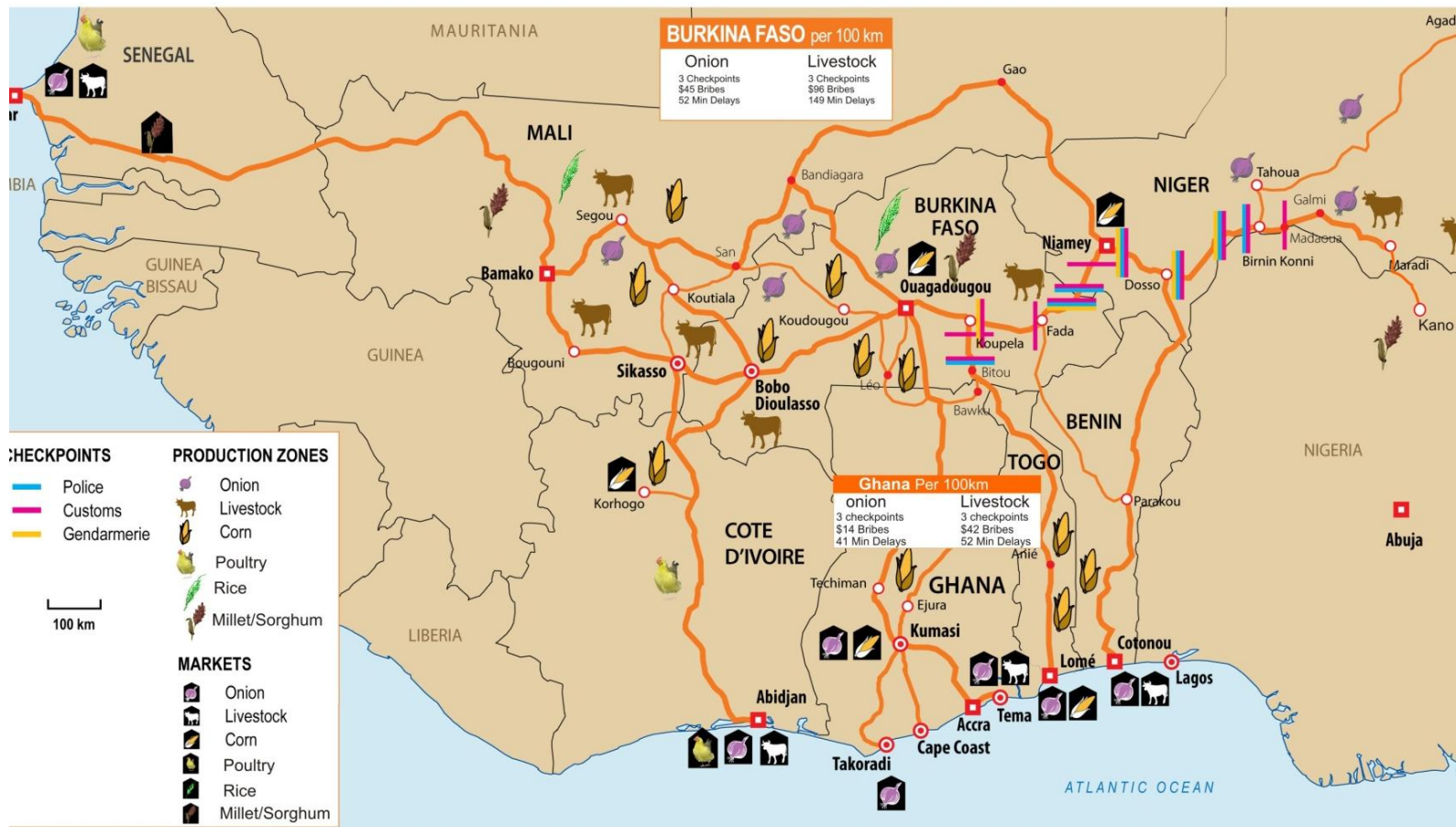
- **Agribusiness and Trade Promotion**

- Reduce physical and policy-related barriers to moving goods along key transport corridors.
- Enhancing linkages among producers and suppliers, processors, and distributors.
- Increasing advocacy to support a conducive environment for agricultural trade.
- Improve the efficiency of trade transactions and regional market access.
- Program is ends Spring 2013. The new trade promotion program will build on strengths from current program and address lessons learned. Due to start Summer 2013.





## Intra-Regional Trade Facilitation





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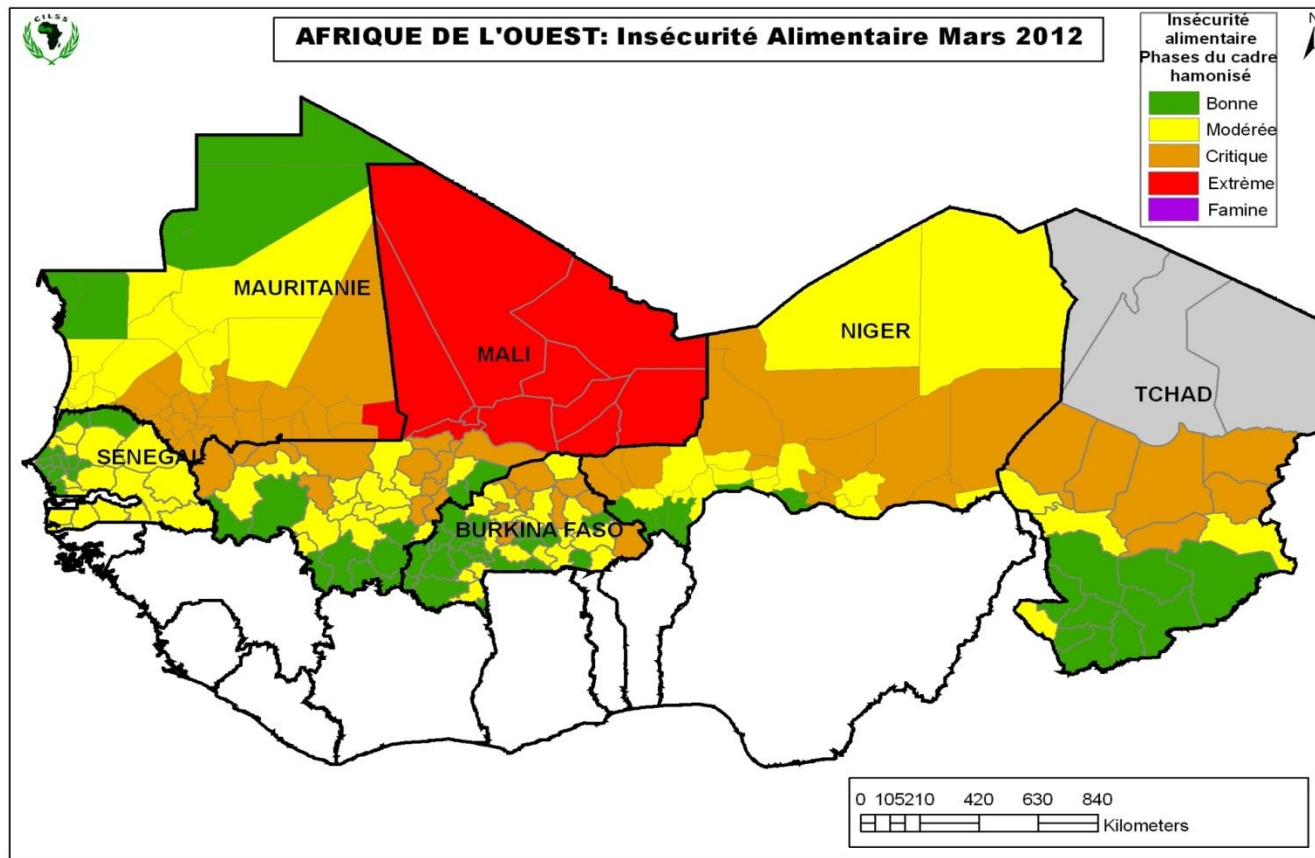
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## Enhanced Institutional Capacity of Regional Organizations

- **CILSS**
  - Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
  - Lead regional technical agency for managing regional agricultural statistics, hydrological and meteorological information, and early warning food security information.
- **CORAF**
  - West and Central African Council for Agriculture Research and Development (CORAF)
  - Lead agency for regional agricultural research and development and works closely with international and national research centers.
- **Africa Lead**
  - Capacity support program to regional organizations such as CILSS, CORAF and ECOWAS
  - Leadership and technical assistance to senior and mid-career professionals.



## CILSS – Food security mapping





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## Resilience

- **The Niger Food Security Program**
  - Increase production of value added crops with irrigated agriculture alongside staple and native crops, rehabilitate degraded farm lands and link farmers to credit and technical assistance for small livestock.
- **Peace Corps**
  - Small grants program for Peace Corps volunteers to implement projects focusing on ultra-poor populations and women. The projects include activities on nutrition, agricultural productivity and natural resource management.



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## Nutrition

- **Fortify West Africa - Helen Keller International**
  - Harmonize mandatory fortification standards
    - Partners: West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and West African Health Organization (WAHO)
    - Vegetable cooking oil-Vitamin A
    - Wheat flour-iron, zinc, folic acid, B Vitamin
  - Quality Control
    - Industry TA for fortification and testing
  - Public Awareness & Advocacy