



Food shocks in West Africa Stakeholder perspectives and needs

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Outline

- Decision contexts – interventions/investments/policies for response or resilience in West Africa
 - The ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)
 - Rice self-sufficiency policies in West Africa
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- Primary strategies for abating food shock crises in West Africa
 - The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) / The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)
 - The Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis (CFSVA)
- Type of information and tools used /additional information and tools desired
 - The “*Cadre Harmonisé*”)

Decision contexts – interventions/investments/policies for response or resilience in West Africa

- **The ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)**

- To address fundamental challenges facing the agricultural sector in West Africa
 - Agriculture: about 35% of the region's GDP, 16% of exports and nearly 60% of employment;
 - But: unable to keep up with growing food demand; uncertainty in food production; volatility in international markets
- Design of National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) / influenced by 2007/2008 price spikes
 - Emergency food production programs (GOANA in SN, Initiative riz in Mali); Emphasis on production of staples through input subsidies ; Low use of private investments; Inclusion of crisis prevention mechanisms and social safety nets.
- Development of a regional investment plan and associated policy measures
 - Investments in strategic products such as rice, cassava, maize, livestock, meat, and fish to improve the region's food sovereignty; Reducing food insecurity and promoting sustainable access to food through a regional food reserve and various models of social safety nets.

Decision contexts – interventions/investments/policies for response or resilience in West Africa

- The Rice self-sufficiency policies in West Africa
 - Massive investments to ensure self-sufficiency
 - Mixed results: significant progress but rice imports are still high in many countries of the region
 - Lack of analysis on future impacts of climate change

Decision contexts – interventions/investments/policies for response or resilience in West Africa

- Development of food reserves (1)

- National Public stocks

- Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and Nigeria have significant public stocks.
- Benin and Togo have very small public stocks (10000 to 15000 T)
- Some coastal countries do not have any public stocks (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée Bissau, Senegal)
- *The Sahel countries have a 'Stock National de Sécurité' (SNS) (from the 1980s) co-managed with the donors, and an 'intervention stock' created after the 2005 crisis and managed by the country government alone.*
- National stocks are low, but public storage capacities are quite important

Decision contexts – interventions/investments/policies for response or resilience in West Africa

- Development of food reserves (2)

- The regional food security reserve

- Objectives

- Improve crisis response by enhancing capacity and responsiveness at different levels ;
 - Promote regional solidarity and reduce dependence on international assistance;
 - Promote a storage system specifically targeted for emergency response;
 - Reduce price volatility and its impact on producers and consumers.

- Physical component (1/3) to secure rapid supply ; Financial component (2/3) to reduce costs and diversify food assistance

Primary strategies for abating food shock crises in West Africa

- **The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)**
 - CILSS, a technical arm of ECOWAS, ensures that its member states are never surprised by changing weather or market conditions that can affect their national food security;
 - CILSS monitors food security in the region in real time, using cutting-edge satellite and data-management systems, and monitoring missions with technical partners in each of the 17 countries during the course of every agricultural season;
 - Each year it holds five regional workshops on Prevention and Management of Food Crises for countries to present crop-assessment outcomes through “cereal balance-sheets”;
 - The **Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)** with partners such as OECD and FAO, uses all the cereal balance-sheets and other data to determine what, if any, support the countries might need in the coming season.

Primary strategies for abating food shock crises in West Africa

- The Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis (CFSVA)
 - Identify geographical and socio-economic groups of households that are food insecure;
 - Determine the nature and causes of food insecurity and vulnerability;
 - Identify geographical and socio-economic groups of children aged 6-59 months and women of childbearing age (age 15-49) who are malnourished;
 - Identify the most appropriate response options to reduce food insecurity, vulnerability and malnutrition in the short and long term.\
- Alternative tools (beyond surveys) that are cost-effective and provide real-time response? [Satellites, drones, mobile phone] Rf. Africa Regional Data Cube (GPSDD, NASA)

Type of information and tools used /additional information and tools desired

- The Harmonized Framework for Identification and Analysis of Areas at Risk of and Populations Affected by Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa (*The “Cadre Harmonisé”*)
 - Purpose: Help countries prevent food crises better and, where appropriate, quickly identify affected populations and appropriate measures to improve their food and nutrition security.
 - Method developed by a group of food and nutrition security experts from CILSS, FAO, WFP, FEWS NET, AFD, IPC/GSU, JRC/EC, UNICEF, Oxfam, Save the Children and ACF.
 - Cadre Harmonisé analysis draws on the analytical framework of the IPC 2.0, including the analysis of four outcome indicators (food consumption, nutritional status, livelihood change and mortality) with contributing factors such as hazards and vulnerability, food availability, access, utilization and stability, that can impact on food security outcomes.

Type of information and tools used /additional information and tools desired

- Critique of the “Cadre Harmonisé”
 - “Cadre Harmonisé” provides current status information across a range of indicators/outcomes (food security, nutrition, livelihoods and mortality).
 - Little information about the drivers of the crisis ; it is critical to understand underlying causes;
 - Political interference when dealing with famine
- Overlapping shocks? (drought, conflict, flooding)

Thank you

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