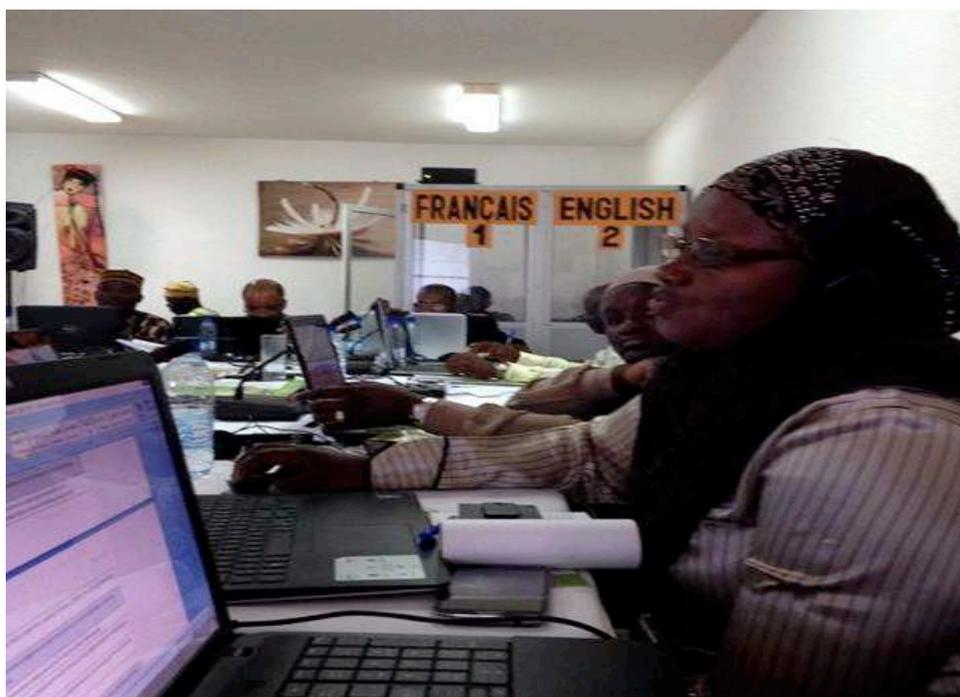


REPUBLIC OF BENIN

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERY

DIRECTORATE OF PLANT PRODUCTION

**PROJECT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN WEST AFRICA
(WAAAP-BENIN)**



REPORT OF SRI REGIONAL WORKSHOP:

COTONOU, BENIN :

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By

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1.0 Introduction and Background

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was developed in Madagascar in the years 1983 -1984 by Father Henri de LAULANIE, a French Agronomist. It is an innovation that changes the traditional practices of rice growing including the release of high-yielding rice plants. In practical terms, rice must can be produced with less seed, water, and mineral fertilizer on organic matter-rich and well-aerated soils.

Upon request of the WAAPP countries, a regional commissioned project entitled "Improving and Scaling up of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa" submitted to CORAF/WECARD by the NCoS-RICE / WAAPP and approved and officially launched in January 2014. It covers the current thirteen (13) WAAPP1c countries for an initial phase of three (3) years.

Three regional workshops were held since the beginning of the project: in February 2014 in Porto Novo, at the Songhai Centre (Benin), in August 2014 in Kpalimé (Togo), and in February 2015 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). These workshops brought together representatives from all thirteen (13) WAAPP1c countries and the team of the Regional Project Coordination (NCoS-Rice / *Institute d'Economie Rurale* and SRI-Rice, Cornell University, USA).

Through exchanges at the Abidjan workshop, participants recommended, among other points:

- To establish the SRI baseline study for each country;
- To harmonize and simplify data collection tools and content provided by the Regional Coordination, taking into account those used in the WAAPP / WAAPP.

Moreover, the terms of reference for the SRI baseline survey and an improved version of the monitoring forms were presented and discussed at the Abidjan workshop, and given to participants from each country covered by the Regional SRI Project. These forms were then sent out by email to all participants for the selection of consultants to carry out the baseline study. These TORs take into account the baseline studies that have been conducted or are underway in all WAAPP member countries. For some countries (Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, etc.), the WAAPP baseline studies have focused on rice already. This study discussed here is part of the overall monitoring and evaluation of the SRI Regional Project.

Thus, pursuant to the recommendations of the Abidjan workshop and in the interest of harmonizing methodological approaches, the Regional Coordination Unit thus ; organize a regional methodological workshop on SRI baseline studies and for the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system.

1.1 Objective

The objective of this workshop are to define a harmonized methodological approach and modalities for the implementation of the baseline study of SRI in countries covered by the SRI Regional Project; and to facilitate the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation systems of the projects.

1.2 Expected outcomes:

- Participants will have abundant information about the Terms of Reference and detailed methodology of the SRI baseline study proposed by the regional coordination;

- A methodology to harmonized actions in progress with WAAPP countries to be adopted
- Indicators and some modalities for the achievement of the baseline study and for the implementation of the M&E systems be adopted
- The existing monitoring forms are reviewed and improved up-on.

Workshop Participants

The workshop was attended by twenty-two (4 female and 18 male) participants in the categories of M&E Officers and SRI Champion; list of attendants attached as *annex-1*:

1.3 Opening Ceremony

The distinguish high table constitute the following personalities of WAAPP Benin and SNR-RIZ/WAAPP:

- The Coordinator of WAAPP, Mr. Janvier CAKPOCHICHI ;
- The Regional Coordinator of CNS-RIZ/WAAPP, Dr. Gaoussou TRAORE ;
- the ProCard representative ; and
- Oumarou SAMASSEKOU the Director of Financial Resources of IER.

During the opening ceremony period the coordinator of the WAAPP Benin also doubled as the Chair-person for the workshop - Mr. Janvier CAKPOCHICHI thanked participants for their presence to this very important workshop held in Cotonou-Benin. Some very good remarks have been highlighted from the high table; all geared towards encouraging participants to be attentive and participate fully in all sessions as this can only add value to knowledge and improve output. In so doing all should try to be more objective in the approaches, interact with each other and ask for clarification on issues for maximum productivity went it is time for implementation. Outcomes from such workshops high-lights continues can be good action points for monitoring and evaluation officers in different ways and can generate efficiency and effectiveness to duties and responsibilities. Participants were further urge to be as objective as possible during deliberations and make maximum use of available time during the five days period allocated to this workshop.

The chairperson in conclusion acknowledged that the workshop will realise its objective even-though M&E Officers are tired from the wrap-up meeting and again into this one without resting moments, because all participants are showing keen interest, this is manifested by the timely attendance to the activity. After all remarks made by the distinguish high table panellist and all protocols duly observed, the chairperson then give the floor to Dr. Traore to make a short remark before breaking for tea/coffee and a family photo.

2.0 Review of the Program Agenda

The Regional SRI Coordinator Dr. G. Traore led the proceedings to review the agenda items with the participants. However, before the review begins; the led presenter emphasise the importance of Monitoring & Evaluation Officers to note the remarks made during the opening

ceremony with utmost importance as this will make all to give maximum attention to sessions so as to enrich our knowledge base of the overall expectations.

With regards to making the workshop more participatory, he urge individuals to put in a clear term that the objectivity most address more emphasis on the importance of a common approach for the implementation of the SRI baseline study in countries covered by the SRI regional project; and to facilitate the implementation of the M&E systems. He finally invited participants to make comments that could improve up on the quality of plans for M&E that shall be presented by each country, and to use the forum in improving on lessons learnt from other.

By the agenda items the first day activities/sessions should end at 17:30, however the participants reviewed the agenda and agreed for the day to end earlier as people just came out of another meeting the previous day and were all exhausted. Thus; most of M&E officers did not even finish working on their presentations due to the fact that the framework was not well understood of all. After the debate over issues in the agenda it was finally adopted and the motion moves;

Following the adoption of the agenda the Coordinator of the Project, a presidium of three (3) individuals be nominated, (chairperson, and two Reporters) this are:

- Chairman, Master, Guillaume HOUNSOU-VE ProCAD Benin Officer in charge of M&E;
- English Reporter, Mrs. Ramatoulie H. SANYANG, M & E Officer WAAPP1c - Gambia;
- Francophone Rapporteur, Mr. Perrian MONTCHO, Junior Expert of Golf Expertise firm.

3.0 Proceeding Proper and Presentations: Day1

3.1 Presentation by Dr. Gaousou & Mr. Devon

To the above prepositions on the agenda, Dr Gaousou agreed and reminded participants that the template to be presented was indeed an alignment of both Abidjan and Lome actions adopted and agreed upon exchanges during the Abidjan workshop. Base on those agreements Cotonou workshop shall witness monitoring officers presenting their SRI country results using that same template. By doing so, in applying the recommendations of the Abidjan Workshop and in view of harmonizing the methodological approaches, all countries should be capable of present their M&E plan.

This shall be done country by country using the given and agreed indicators as defined. Thus to enable the regional office harmonize and simplify tools of data collection and their contents made available by the regional coordination, by taking into account those used as part of PPAO/WAAPP. The mechanism behind this is to synchronize the basic drive for WAAPP and SRI, so SRI wouldn't be seen as an extra activity of its own, this will established specific reference for SRI in each country. Besides, he indicated that the ToRs of the baseline study on SRI and a new version of Monitoring forms have been presented and discussed during Abidjan

workshop and handed over to participants of countries covered by the Regional Project on SRI. These have been sent by email to all participants for selecting consultants in charge of conducting the baseline study in question; and this survey shall then be part of the global system of M&E of countries and SRI Regional Project.

Before passing the baton to Mr. Devon the SRI specialist for rice farming techniques; Dr. Gaousou expressed his happiness about the development of SRI in some African countries, namely Liberia whereby the chairperson of the country chosen to make rice as the country priority farming. He ceased such occasion to congratulate Mr Robert BIMBA a Liberian Consultant, qualifying him as the Champion of champions of SRI. Off cause he did not also rest his time before informing and clarifying the participants why the meeting has to be moved from Senegal to Benin. The Coordinator SRI also give a brief on the SRI development in India whereby a woman farmer very proud of her production proposed to serve as example to other farmers all over the world. He ceased such occasion to present mechanical seeders used in India which he brought 4 for each country of the zone of intervention of the project as well as what it is.

Mr Devon JENKINS, the SRI specialist for rice farming techniques, presented the M&E data collection forms according to the recommendation done in Abidjan by way of participatory method of reviewing and agreement on mode of transmission after filling the forms.

With regards to baseline; he indicated that the ToRs of the baseline study on SRI and a new version of Monitoring forms have been presented and discussed during Abidjan workshop and handed over to participants of countries covered by the Regional Project on SRI. These have been sent by email to all participants for selecting consultants in charge of conducting the baseline study in question; and this survey shall then be part of the global system of M&E of countries and SRI Regional Project.

3.3 Presentation by Mr Adama COULIBALY

Mr. Adama made his presentation on micro-dose motorized seeder. During his presentation the specialist introduced two types of motorized seeders:

- A small seeder equipped with a Jakarta engine,
- A big seeder equipped with a “**sanili**” engine,

He explained their modes of utilization and their importance by indicating that the quantity of fuel used by such seeders is less than that one used by motorbikes over a same distance. He also mentioned that all the potential blacksmiths in Mali have been trained to manufacture such seeders and are ready to manufacturing them in any quantities.

The specialist has also presented a technique of soaking with input of micro doses of fertilizers. He has indicated that such technique was easy, and was facilitating the emergence of seedling and ensuring efficient plant population density managemnt.

At the end of his presentation some participants asked questions of clarification such as:

- What is the cost of the various seeders?
- The seeder, is it usable on every types of soil?

- The seedler is it not so low?

All the questions were satisfied with sound answers.

Lunch Break

4.0 Presentations by M&E Officers

After the lunch break, the M&E officers of Guinea presented the implementation of plan for his country. His presentation was to assure the rest as per the format and indicators used as bases because, the whole M&E Officers present where not sure as per the précised template that was to be used as per Dr. Gaousou's request: all M&E presentations will be attached report as annexes.

4.1 Field Visit

During day one Dr. Traore , proposed to the body about the one day Sunday field visit to Kakanitchoe in Port Novor area, to visit one of SRI Champions in Benin Farm in person of Pascal Gbenou but said it was optional and those interested must write their names for logistic purpose, however 11 person were able to make the field trip which was held on May 31,2015. The team visited Ecole of A ?



This are pictures from the beautiful multi-purpose center of Pascal Benor in the village Kakanitchoe, during the wonderful Visit made on the second day of the workshop. Pic 1 is a family and pic 2 is lunch at a local conference area eating from locally available food

Pascal welcome the body on his integrated farm school, located in Rural Benin, we were able to see fish pond, trees, chicken, running wild pond with integrating tilapia and cat-fish, this way the cat-fish are use as a control measures to the high level breeding of tilapia, and several varieties of fruits. The visit led the team to a crossing point where ; exist 123 tyres used as crossing bridge leading to the second part of the farm and were exist a lodge and residence area for the intern studence and himself. Lunched was served in the field conference hall with only local meal served. While people are eating Pascal made a presentation of the farm successes, contrsaints , and future plan. Also when asked about SRI he said he was introduced to SRI when he visited Madacasca, upon his returned he decided to try it himself to observe the

outcome before sharing with member of the Rice Platform in Benin. After his realisation of good results he shared it and many people are now practicing SRI. However the successes Pascal spoke of transplanting and weeds control as a major constraints. When asked about the planting season of rice he said they usually start in October due to the heavy rains and lack of irrigated fields.

4.2 Presentations by M&E Officers

The workshop continued with the presentations by the M&E Officers on implementation plan. Senegal and Mali were able to present their plans and it was reviewed and appreciated by the body and every other country was asked to complete their plans inline with the template used by Senegal as this happened to be the one that was expected by the organizers and submit it before June 4, 2015. The coordinator later on shared the Senegal presentations with the rest of the participants for adaptation.

4.3 Presentations by Devon Jenkins on the ArcGIS

Mr. Devon Jenkins, the a technical Staff from SRI-Rice Cornell University working on the SRI WAAPP regional project lead the session on ArcGIS and Survey123 an application for collecting data, uploading maps, designing/identifying SRI target zones and telling stories of farmers and sharing with colleagues and interested persons (general). During this time the participants were introduced to the applications and many took interest. One of the main constraints for Monday training was installation of the Software on participants smart phones and laptops due to poor internet connections for both the survey123 and ArcGIS. However the facilitator asked participants to exercise patience as the organizers are working along with Hotel management to get alternate modern for internet connections. The rest of the day was spent on working on installation and facilitator answering queries raised by participants with regards ArcGIS.

For the last day of the M&E Officers Participants were asked to continue with the practicing of GIS to build on the capacity and be able to operate the system and uploading important and necessary activities conducted or achieved. It was clearly noticed that all participants suddenly became agitated and given the a special interest that overwhelmed all. This makes the training session the most interesting as grew in many and the session became very lively. Participants were taught on how to develop Target Zones, Maps, folders, edit, place photo to map and tell stories and continue all day with more hands on.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendation

In conclusions there was a unanimous agreement that the workshop was timely and important. All objectives have been met. The most important of it all was that participants have expressed

their rejoy in part taking the practical of ArcGIS with Mr. Devon in mapping out target zones and uploading maps and story maps.

The only recommendation that came out of this meeting was the issue for CORAF to upscale the ArcGIS training in more detailed manner to enable participants understand better and more for future loadings and mappings of our individual activities.

Annex1

LISTE PROVISoire DES PARTICIPANTS A L'ATELIER REGIONAL METHODOLOGIQUE DES ETUDES DE REFERENCE ET SUIVI-EVALUATION DU SRI

COTONOU DU 30 MAI AU 03 JUIN 2015

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10	Ramatoulie H. SANYANG	M & E WAAPP/ Gambia	Gambi a	(220) 79 04 895 ; 99 70 406	routlie4000@yahoo.co.uk
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14	MONTCHO Perrian	Consultant Golf Expertises	Bénin	(229) 96 52 02 66	perrianler@yahoo.fr
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16	ALLONGNON Bonaventure	Pro-CAD Photographe Cadreur	Bénin	(229) 97 08 27 56	allbons@yahoo.fr
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Annexe 2

The adapted template from the meeting