



Statement of the Farmer
Organizations working in local
storage in West Africa



To contribute to the implementation of the regional food security storage strategy adopted by ECOWAS , the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles en Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA) organized from 09 to 10 November 2020 , a regional meeting of reflection on three topics via video-conference :

- i) the fight against cereal contamination by aflatoxin and strengthening of quality standards for the marketing of cereals ;
- ii) the fight against the Fall armyworm ;
- iii) the participation of farmer organizations in institutional purchases.

We, Farmer Organizations working in local storage thank CORAF and the three regional integration organizations especially CILSS, UEMOA and ECOWAS that actively participated in the regional reflection. We are quite satisfied with the quality of participation of the organizations that spared no effort to bring light to the FOs on these topics by presenting the initiatives taken by their institutions and prospects of planned actions and by being involved in the reflection of the FOs that

formulated strong actions to take up those challenges within our region.

We congratulate and encourage research at the national and regional level for the efforts made in a participatory approach in order to promote prevention and control techniques against armyworm and Aflatoxin.

We congratulate and encourage the Heads of States for their commitment to the Statement of Ouagadougou, to reduce agricultural productions losses due to the impact of plant pests from 37% to 20% by 2023.

We congratulate and encourage ECOWAS and its Member States for their efforts to establish contracts with FOs for the formation of national and regional food reserves and provision of food in prisons, hospitals and school canteens, etc.

We reaffirm the decisive role of cereals in infant nutrition, food security and sovereignty in our region and recall that almost half of the lands we cultivate in the region, i.e. more than 45 million ha, is allocated to the various cereals.

We notice, despite the efforts made by States, IGOs and other actors intervening in the region that :

- Fall armyworms continue causing damage in our farms. It causes six billion financial losses in West Africa and the Sahel and threatens nearly 200 million food insecure people ;
- We are still struggling to access at the grassroots level technologies developed by our research centers to control aflatoxin ;
- We are still encountering huge difficulties in selling our cereal products in the region because of the absence of a harmonized standard for agricultural and food products within ECOWAS space, our poor access to the quality control centers and persistent difficulties in the movement of people and goods ;
- Our access to the institutional markets is still below our capacities of mobilization. For instance, only 12% of the regional reserve was made up with products delivered directly by the FOs.



To this end, we West African Farmer Organizations commit to :

- Capitalizing and disseminating good endogenous practices in the fight against armyworm and aflatoxins within the region ;
- Building the capacities of the FOs to improve the quality of production and fulfill their contractual commitments ;
- Strengthening information watch and alert of our members on opportunities to access the existing institutional markets ;
- Strengthening the watch and alert of decision-makers on experiences of farmers during the agricultural campaign.

We invite research at national and regional level to :

- Extend and disseminate technologies developed for the prevention and fight against armyworms and aflatoxin ;
- Develop large-scale operational alert systems for farmers on appearance of pests ;
- Support farmers in developing research around endogenous solutions to fight against pests.

We encourage States, CILSS, UEMOA, the ECOWAS to :

- Make available to the grassroots farmers technologies developed for the prevention and fight against armyworms and aflatoxins ;
- Support and assist FOs in building the capacities of their members to improve the quality of production ;
- Set up and operationalize a West African standard for agricultural and agri-food products ;
- Strengthen the operationalization of the free movement of goods and people within the region ;
- Ensure the access to the information for FOs on institutional markets and make access procedures more flexible ;
- Set up a regulation around the third party ownership ;
- Create an environment conducive to the financing of FOs and FFs in the region.

We remain convinced that these guidances are a convincing way to strengthen the production, marketing, consumption of quality agricultural products and food security in our region.

Made on November 10th, 2020 via video-conference

