



February 2020

**FARMERS' ASSESSMENT OF THE 2019/2020 AGRO-SYLVO-
PASTORAL AND FISHERY SEASON IN WEST AFRICA:**

Trends towards overall average outcomes

Table of Contents

Introductory Summary	5
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Chapter I: Assessment of 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season 7

1.1. Overall analysis of the assessment of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season compared to that of 2017/2018.....	8
1.1.1 Countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali)	13
1.1.2 Coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau)	14
1.1.3 Countries with predominantly forestry (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia)	16
1.1.4 Coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin)	18
1.2. Main strategies of family farms and Farmers' Organizations during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery Season	20
1.2.1 Consequences of the 2018/2019 Season for Family Farming	20
1.2.2 Performance of Family Farms during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery Season	23
1.2.3 Responsiveness of Farmers' Organizations to the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season	25

Chapter II: Trends of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season 29

2.1. Conditions of implementation and the first stages of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season 2019/2020.....	30
2.2. Characteristics of lean hunger season and behavior of family farms during lean season	33
2.3. Prospects for the results of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season	34
2.4. Measures made by Farmers' Organizations in relation to the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season.....	36

**Chapter III: Overall conclusions of farmers' organizations
on the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season..... 39**

- 3.1. Comparative analysis of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons
2018/2019 and 2019/2020 40
- 3.2. Lessons learned by farmers' organizations on the 2019/2020
agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishing season 42
- 3.3. Improvement areas in the monitoring of agro-sylvo-pastoral
and fisheries seasons by farmers' organizations..... 43

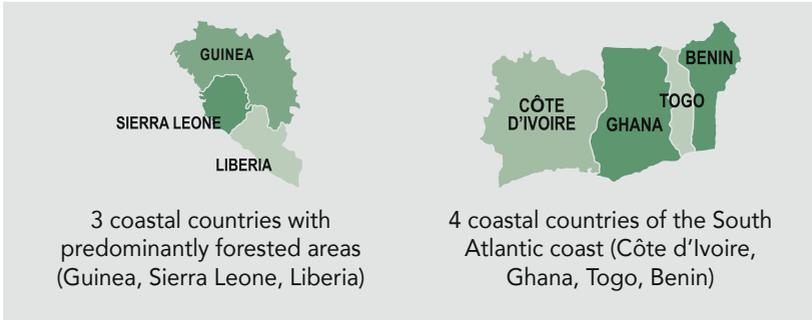
Introductory Summary

The third report of ROPPA's Observatory of Family Farming is essentially devoted to farmers' observations made by the Network of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA) through its 13 national platforms supplemented by information from the technical services in the various countries. The report focuses on the monitoring of the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons on the one hand and on the other hand on the production of farmers' knowledge on youth on family farms in West Africa.

This policy brief deals only with the monitoring of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons, which is the guiding thread of the Observatory's productions. Indeed, the assessment of the last three years of OFF/ROPPA's life confirms the crucial nature for farmers' organizations of campaign monitoring, which allows them to better understand how family farms adjust their strategies to adapt to the consequences of climatic variations and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the market as well as by public policies, and to monitor the implementation of these policies. The preparation of the campaign, the time of the lean season, and the end-of-campaign assessment are key moments for this monitoring.

Following on from the productions of the Observatory of Family Farming (report N°1 of the Observatory of Family Farming, January 2017), (report N°2 on the farmers' monitoring of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, October 2018), this policy brief is presented in the form of an empirical geographical grouping of the 13 countries involved in 4 groups which have common natural or socio-political characteristics:





The major conclusions that emerge from farmers' observations of the monitoring of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season are as follows:

- The results of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season converge towards globally average trends in the 13 West African countries according to farmers. Thus we note a trend of production decline in 6 countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Senegal) and an upward trend in 7 countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Liberia, Togo). These trend results for agro-sylvo-pastoral production in 2019/2020 are declining compared to the results of the 2018/2019 season;
- Support measures of the States in terms of inputs during the current season, which remain more or less equal to those of the 2018/2019 season even if there are variations in the countries;
- Fodder deficit situation in the 2019/2020 season that is substantially similar to that of the previous season, heralding a difficult food situation for livestock;
- Persistence of insecurity linked to terrorism in the current season more than in the 2018/2019 season.

This report is presented in 3 chapters:

- Chapter 1 introduces the assessment of 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season;
- Chapter 2 deals with the trends of 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season;
- Chapter 3 addresses the overall conclusions of farmers' organizations following the observations of 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season.



Chapter I :

Assessment of 2018/2019
agro-sylvo-pastoral
and fishery season

Family farms provide the bulk of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery production in West Africa. During 2018/2019, the results on these farms were generally considered good, with the exception of The Gambia and Sierra Leone, where poor harvests were reported.

In this first chapter of the report, the overall assessment of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season will be presented, and in a second section, the main strategies developed by family farms and farmers' organizations during the season will be discussed.

1.1. Overall analysis of the assessment of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season compared to that of 2017/2018

This section of the report provides a detailed analysis by country group, the dominant features of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, the results of harvesting, production valuation and marketing as well as the factors explaining these results compared to the previous season (2017/2019).



**Table A: AGRO-SYLVOPASTORAL AND FISHERY SEASON 2018/2019:
Good compared to the 2017/2018 season**

SUMMARY TABLE: AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN 2018/2019 (indicative data according to platform analysis)

Country of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip		Coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast			
NIGER	BURKINA FASO	MALI	SENEGAL	THE GAMBIA	GUINEA BISSAU
Bad season - Rainfall deficit and flooding - poor availability of pasture (Fodder deficit in the order of - 10 940 993 TMS.) - Bad fishing season (insufficient fish capture, tilapia epidemic - Insecurity related to terrorism - Decrease in States actions (inputs) → food insecurity	Bad season - Rainfall is generally satisfactory but poorly distributed in space and time (9 to 20 days of pockets of drought). - Insufficient forage production - Fall armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) attacks in the 13 regions of the country (area 58,324.46 ha infested). - Terrorism-related insecurity - Decrease in public interventions → food insecurity	Bad season - Bad rainfall - Bad fishing season (water deficits) - Insufficient quantity of subsidized fertilizer either (25% of the needs expressed in fertilizer) - Poor pasture availability - Terrorism-related Insecurity (cattle theft, destruction of motor pumps). → food insecurity	Good season - Satisfactory rainfall - Phytosanitary situation globally calm and well managed - Good availability of pasture but forage deficits in some localities (Liguere, Matam, Kanele and Poudor) - Average fishing season - Decrease in the facilitation of access to inputs and credit by the State (5,500 T of certified seeds and 30,000 T of fertilizers) → Overall favorable food situation	Good season - Good rainfall (Flooding rice growing areas of Kuntaur) - Calm phytosanitary situation - Satisfactory fishing season (catching/year - 26,000 to 36,000 t/year) - Good availability of pasture - Easy access to production land for FF - Support for capacity building of producers (management and use of organic fertilizers, etc.) → Satisfactory good situation	Good season - Overall satisfactory rainfall (floods) - satisfactory availability of pasture - Good fishing season (Artisanal fishing annual catching between 26,000 and 36,000 tons per year) - difficulties in accessing loans → Overall favorable food situation
Reminder Season 2017/2018					

Country of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip		Coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast			
NIGER	BURKINA FASO	MALI	SENEGAL	THE GAMBIA	
<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - Provision of inputs - Availability of pasture - Good cereal production - Terrorist related insecurity affecting ASPH activities in certain areas of the country <p>→ Acceptable food security</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Favorable rainfall - State support in inputs - Controlled phyto-sanitary situation - Good availability of pasture - Good cereal production - Good supply of some markets - Terrorist related insecurity affecting agricultural activities <p>→ Good food situation</p>	<p>Bad season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bad rainfall - Bad fishing season (water deficits) - Insufficient quantity of subsidized fertilizer either (25% of the needs expressed in fertilizer) - Poor pasture availability - Insecurity linked to terrorism (cattle theft, destruction of motor pumps), Good fishing season - State subsidy in fertilizer and animal feed - Presidential Emergency Program (construction of a dairy unit in Mali) - Insecurity in some areas of the country <p>→ Acceptable food security</p>	<p>Mean season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - Armyworm attacks under control - Pasture shortage - Input availability - fish - Fishing season deficit / fish farming - Average Market Supply - Non-compliance with commitments by some industrialists (peanut) - State remedial program. <p>→ Acceptable food security</p>	<p>Bad season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unfavorable rainfall - Shortage in pasture - Salinization reported by location - Average fishing season - Insufficient input support (seeds, fertilizer) <p>→ Unsatisfactory food situation</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - Good spatio-temporal distribution of rain - Provision of inputs to producers by the State - Good cereal production - Good availability of pasture - Good fishing season - Satisfactory level of market supply <p>→ Satisfactory food security</p>
Season 2018/2019					

Countries with predominantly forested areas (affected by Ebola fever)		Coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast				
GUINEA	SIERRA LEONE	LIBERIA	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	GHANA	TOGO	BENIN
Bad season - Rainfall deficit - Delays and abrupt rain breaks - Poor availability of pasture - Insufficiency/non-existence of feedstuffs - decline in fishery resources - Crop pest attacks (armyworms, mildew) - Conflict communities and mining companies in Lower Guinea - Decrease in government support (access to inputs and loans) → Unfavorable food situation	Bad season - Rainfall deficit - Decline in public support: delay in the implementation of inputs - Difficulties in accessing loans - High demand for guarantees by MFIs → Unsatisfactory food situation	Good season - Good rainfall - Good availability of pasture - availability of commercial stocks feed but expensive - Nearly no state-subsidized SPAI stocks - Generally calm phytosanitary situation → Satisfactory food situation	Good season - Satisfactory rainfall - Satisfactory fishing season - Government support through the supply of fertilizer - Pasture availability → Satisfactory food situation	Good season - Good rainfall with floods - Attacks of armyworms caterpillars - Decline in fishery resources, and the non-respect of maritime borders → Satisfactory food situation	Good season - Good rainfall, some pockets of drought in March and May - Fall armyworm attacks - Well managed - Good availability of pasture - Good availability of water for livestock watering - Insufficiency/non-existence of feed - Low fishing catching - Difficulty in accessing inputs → Satisfactory food situation	Good season - Rainfall +/- well distributed - Low coverage of input requirements except for cotton production - Good animal production - Good fishing season - Decrease in inland fishing (cause silt) and increase in marine fishing → Satisfactory food situation
Reminder Season 2017/2018						

Countries with predominantly forested areas (affected by Ebola fever)			Coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast			
GUINEA	SIERRA LEONE	LIBERIA	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	GHANA	TOGO	BENIN
<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - State support in inputs - Good cereal production - Average appreciable level of pasture - Good fishing season - Crop pests under control - Good market supply <p>→ sécurité alimentaire satisfaisante</p>	<p>Bad season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor rainfall distribution - Insufficient state support - Poor cereal production - Soaring food prices on the markets <p>→ unsatisfactory food security</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - Controlled attacks of crop pests - Good agricultural production - Good fishing season - low access to inputs - Good availability of the pasture <p>→ favorable food situation</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Favorable rainfall - Controlled attacks of crop pests - Good agricultural production - Good availability of pasture - Food Diversification - State support in inputs - Difficulties in accessing markets (roads, roads, etc.) <p>→ fair food security</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - Control of some contagious disease outbreaks - government input subsidies - Good agricultural production - Good fishing season <p>→ favorable food situation</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall and good distribution - Predator attack under control - Support in inputs and phytosanitary products - Good availability of fodder and water for watering animals - Good season - Availability of food on the markets <p>→ good food situation</p>	<p>Good season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good rainfall - Caterpillar attacks under control - State support in inputs - Good agricultural production - Pasture availability - Sufficient availability of food <p>→ good food situation</p>
Season 2018/2019						

1.1.1. Countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali)



The good rainfall recorded during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season was the main dominant feature observed in the three countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali). Despite some drought pockets, rainfall was satisfactory in all three countries with an overall normal to late agro-pastoral season. In Burkina Faso, for example, despite pockets of drought, rainfall recovery was good from the second decade of July onwards with a good crop physiognomy.

Cases of autumn armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) attacks reported in Burkina Faso and Niger during the season were quickly brought under control by the phytosanitary services.

In general, the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season shows that cereal production increased significantly in the three countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip compared to the previous season.

- In Burkina Faso, national cereal production for the 2018-2019 agricultural season is up by more than 27% over the previous year. As for fodder availability, it varies according to localities. Good market supply is reported in the country as well as a decline in food prices compared to last year.
- In Niger, production has been satisfactory for both crops and fodder in most areas, although there are regional disparities. Final crop assessments indicate surplus production based on local cereal availability and consumption. Cereal production for the 2018-2019 winter season will amount to 5,961,795 tons according to information gathered by the Niger Farmers' Platform. Fodder production in pastoral areas is considered good to average despite the existence of a few pockets of poor production and bare soil in places. The national fodder production shows an overall fodder surplus of about 3,301,978 MGT.
- In Mali, the 2018/2019 agricultural season was generally good with a final production of 10,159,539 tons, 9.3% higher than last season according to national statistics. However, fodder production was



+27%
of cereal
production
in Burkina



5,961,795
tons of cereal
production in
Niger

considered insufficient during the Season. Pockets of biomass deficit were reported in the Inner Delta and the Niger Loop. In addition, there was limited access to some pastures in the regions (Ménaka, Mopti and North Segou) and significant unusual movements of herds from the center to the south due to insecurity. Unusual concentrations are also observed within the regions of Mopti, Ménaka and Gao due to inter-community conflicts. As for the functioning of the markets, there is limited access due to insecurity. However, cereal prices are lower than last year. With respect to the supply of livestock to the market, a decline in supply and demand is reported due to persistent insecurity (difficulties in accessing markets by herders and foreign buyers).



10,159,539
tons of cereal
production
in Mali

This increase in cereal production in the three countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip was possible thanks to the good spatial and temporal distribution of rains. In Burkina Faso, for example, cumulative rainfall was recorded ranging from 300.5 mm in Gorom-Gorom in 27 days in Oudalan Province to 1373.0 mm in 68 days in Loumana, Lerabah Province according to official information. In addition, the increase in area planted is estimated at 11.34% compared to the previous season. In Niger, rainfall was regular and well distributed in time and space with heavy rains even causing flooding and loss of animals in several departments in the regions of Diffa, Zinder, Maradi, Tillabéri, Agadez and the center and south of Tahoua.



1.1.2. Coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau)

During the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery agricultural season, rainfall was satisfactory in the two coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast (Senegal, Guinea Bissau) and unfavorable in The Gambia. According to farmer leaders, despite the rain breaks recorded at the beginning of the season in Senegal, the season was relatively good for crop production. In The Gambia, on the other hand, the season was marked by a late arrival of rains followed by a long dry spell at the beginning of the season. This led to late sowing of crops and poor crop germination resulting in reseeding in most parts of the country.

The phytosanitary situation remained relatively calm in the three coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast, according to the information collected

by the national platforms. Nevertheless, the latter have stressed the need to engage more in the fight against the armyworm that has appeared in some places in Senegal and to better deal with the aflatoxin problem that affects several crops (groundnut, maize, etc.).

Overall, the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season was satisfactory and up on the previous year in the two countries of the West Atlantic coast, namely Senegal and Guinea Bissau, and poor in The Gambia.

- In The Gambia, cereal production during the 2018/2019 Season was down with a significant decrease of 27% compared to the 2018/2017 Season. Total cereal production for the 2018/2019 season is estimated at 89,964 tons, including 26,413 tons of rice and 63,551 tons of coarse grains. With regard to the pastoral situation, a general shortage of fodder has been reported in most of the country, but the most affected areas are the CRR-N and URR-N. This decline in fodder resources (quantity and quality) makes it very difficult for farmers to feed ruminants.



-27%
of cereal
production in
The Gambia
with 89,964
tons

On the other hand, the results of the fishing catching during the 2018/2019 season are considered good. Catching in the Atlantic Ocean amounted to 57,999 t, reflecting an increase of 17%. Catching of the continental/artisanal fishery amounted to 14,021 tons, reflecting a 20% increase in percentage as compared to the 2017/2018 season. According to farmers, availability of food on markets is considered good overall, rice and other cereal stocks are observed in the main markets of the country, however access remains a challenge due to the increase in prices and the low purchasing power of the majority of farmers.

- In Guinea Bissau, cereal production increased by 6.3% compared to the 2017/2018 Season. Total gross cereal production was 224,164 tons. According to livestock farmers, the food situation of livestock is satisfactory throughout the country, given the abundance of pastures. Herd movements are normal with good access to fodder resources and water points. The level of market supply is generally satisfactory, both in terms of local and imported products (cereals, tubers and legumes).



224,164
tons of cereal
production in
Guinea Bissau

- In Senegal, the production obtained is considered acceptable because of the restoration of the observed rainfall balance towards the end of the season and the efforts made by the State through the remedial program. As regards cereal crops, good production was noted, particularly for sesame (30 tons in the central zone) and millet in the groundnut basin, but also for rice in the river valley and in Casamance. The good season for vegetables resulted in overproduction in the Niayes zone. In the area of livestock, the farmers estimate that the season was relatively less good (50%) due to climatic hazards that decimated a large part of the livestock population. In addition to this, there was a large importation of sheep during the Tabaski season.

For fishing, it is noted that the season is in deficit due to the impact of rainfall on the availability of fish (climatic hazards marked by rainfall with winds, scarcity of resources along the entire coast (large and small coasts) in addition to the fact that fishermen are unable to go to sea because of unfavorable weather). At the level of the fishing industry, the decline in production has led to inflation that has resulted in an increase in prices with impacts on the level of food security. The Marketing Season also had consequences on family farms. The products that have particularly suffered from poor marketing are groundnuts and milk.

1.1.3. Countries with predominantly forestry (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia)



According to producers in countries with predominantly forestry (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia), the rainfall recorded during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season was deemed satisfactory in Guinea and Liberia and unsatisfactory in Sierra Leone. In Guinea, the ASPH Season was conducted with a normal rainfall trend with a surplus trend observed over the entire national territory. The same is true in Liberia where the overall rainfall situation was favorable to the development of crops even causing flooding in some areas of the south-west (Margibi, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Sinoe and Bomi counties).

- In Guinea, the normal course of the 2018/2019 agricultural season over the entire national territory has seen an increase in production for all commodities. On the other hand, the food situation of livestock dependent on natural pastures is unsatisfactory. It has turned into a deficit as the dry season continues to progress. According to herders, this deficit was more marked in Upper and Middle Guinea.

The level of supply of agricultural products to markets is generally satisfactory. Cereal prices are relatively stable compared to the same period last year. For livestock, market supply is generally satisfactory to average, but down from last year. This is due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Livestock prices are higher than last year because of the ban on transporting animals from FMD-affected prefectures to markets. Fish markets are relatively well supplied, but there is a decline in fish production this year compared to last year.

- With an increase of 7.57%, the results of the total production during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season in Liberia, higher than those of the previous year are considered globally satisfactory. Cereal production is estimated at 264,444 tons with an increase of 6.41% over the previous year (2017/2018). As for the situation of pasture, which is the main source of food for livestock, it was generally available throughout the country during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral season.



264,444
tons of cereal
production in
Guinea

With regard to food availability, it is reported that most households have stocks from the previous harvest (of rice, banana, plantain, oranges, pepper, okra, bitter balls, and green vegetables). These stocks are also available in local markets.

- In Sierra Leone, the poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall along with insufficient State support for inputs had a negative impact on production during the season. Cereal production declined significantly, particularly of local rice and other food crops. This naturally affected the food availability of products on the markets through higher food and transport prices due to inflation, which slightly worsened the food insecurity situation.

1.1.4. Coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin)



During the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery agricultural season, rainfall was generally favorable for the good development of crops in the four coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo). In Benin, for example, the 2018-2019 Season was wetter than the 2017/2018 Season (1137.61 mm vs. 1071.94 mm of water). In terms of plant health, the situation is generally calm despite the outbreaks of the armyworm reported in Senegal and quickly brought under control thanks to the actions of the Plant Production Department.

Overall, the four countries of the South Atlantic coast have shown satisfactory results from the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season. However, this upward trend is relative according to the countries taken in isolation.

- In Benin, food crop production was good in general and led to surpluses in almost all crop groups. Change in cereal production in 2018/2019 compared to that of 2017/2018 is estimated at 1.35%. Following the good agricultural production recorded during the Season with abundant harvests noted, the level of supply of the various food crops, particularly those of high consumption on the markets has improved significantly compared to the previous year with a sustained decline in food prices.

Globally, fodder needs are covered by natural production and cultivated species. However, the early onset of transhumance (November-December) was reported prior to the establishment of the reception system (320,000 cattle counted against a forecast of 170,000 as of January 31, 1,553 ha of crops devastated, some twenty granaries (10 tons of food) looted/burned, 176 cattle slaughtered, 46 human casualties, 50 people injured, and 36 huts burned).

- In Côte d'Ivoire, the satisfactory results of agricultural production globally during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season show slight fluctuations with - 2.3% for cereals and + 3.9% for tubers. The situation of pastures and animal health is deemed satisfactory overall, even if the framework remains insufficient. National beef consumption is 80% assured by imports from Mali and Burkina Faso. Urban and rural markets are well supplied by crops and imports, mainly rice, wheat, onions, fish, livestock, frozen meat, etc., which

are imported from Mali and Burkina Faso. In general, the price trend is downwards compared to the level of last year at the same period.

- In Ghana, global estimates show a 9% increase in cereal production in 2018/2019 compared to the previous agricultural season as well as a good availability of pasture. According to farmers, the increase in production and availability of fodder are largely put down to good rainfall during the 2018/2019 agricultural season. As regards fish production, aquaculture recorded an increase of 27.7% while marine fisheries recorded a reduction of 5.28% during the season.

The stability of food prices across the country confirms the story of food abundance in the country's main markets, credited to favorable weather conditions and government interventions with farmers during the 2018/2019 Agricultural Season.



+9%
of cereal
production
in Ghana

- In Togo, in spite of the fall armyworm attacks throughout the country and floods recorded in the Savannah region (Oti and Kpendjal) and the Maritime region (Gulf), the 2018-2019 Agricultural Season recorded good agricultural production, a variation of 2.92% compared to the previous Season. There is also a good supply of food commodities (corn, sorghum, local rice and gari) to the markets for all households. The 2018-2019 agro-pastoral season was also characterized by good availability of dry matter and water for agro-pastoralists throughout the country. This availability is made favorable by the good distribution of rainfall observed in time and space.



1.2. Main strategies of family farms and Farmers' Organizations during the 2018/2019 Agro-sylvo-pastoral and Fishery Season

This section of the report discusses the consequences of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery Season for family farms, the behavior of family farms following the results of the Season and the responsiveness of farmers' organizations on this Season as well as the conclusions they draw from it.

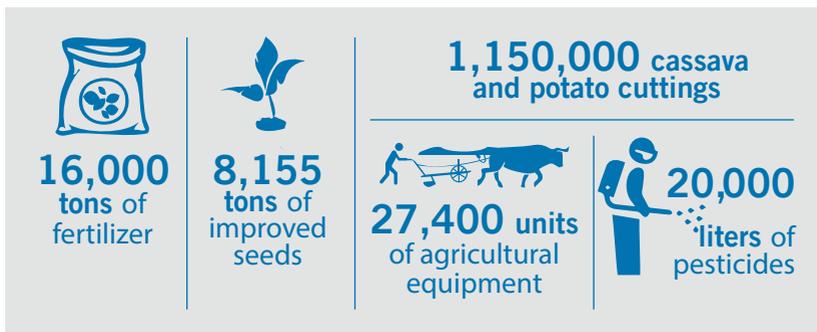
1.2.1. Consequences of the 2018/2019 Season for Family Farming

1.2.1.1. In the countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip, family farms have been affected positively or negatively by major consequences during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season, according to producer information, it appears that:

- State support measures in agricultural inputs had a Positive impact on family farms during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season compared to the previous season. In Burkina Faso, the State's contribution to producers' efforts consisted of 16,000 tons of fertilizer, 8,155 tons of improved seeds, 1,150,000 cassava and potato cuttings, 27,400 units of agricultural equipment, thousands of draught animals and 20,000 liters of pesticides. In Mali, the government's support during the season through the availability of food on the markets, equipment and inputs is highly valued.
- Persistence of insecurity linked to terrorism in the 3 countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian band, which has negatively impacted the family farms during the 2018/2019 Season and continues to affect them:
 - In Niger, terrorism-related insecurity is reported in the Tillabéry and Ayorou areas. Farmers in Boulkagou, Ayorou, and Inatès have announced several attacks on traders and other livestock sellers. In addition, although the state provided agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides) and animal feed during the season, peasants insist that the quantity of these inputs is insufficient. In addition to this, there were floods in places with damage to fields and houses and insufficient straw and pasture for animals.

- In Mali, rising insecurity in the center and north has reduced agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishing activities. Farmers also reported flooding in some production basins, the remoteness of fertilizer deposits for producers, poor access to financing, and a subsidy price higher than the market price (power tillers, ploughs, huskers, etc.). Herders also reported the abduction of animals by thousands and killing of herders, the recurrence of certain diseases such as foot and mouth disease, which has affected certain susceptible species, the obstruction of transhumance trails, and the inadequacy of water and grazing points.
- In addition, residual insecurity in the center and north of the country continues to negatively affect the socio-economic conditions of households. As of January 2019, there are 68,478 repatriates and 120,298 internally displaced people, mainly in the area of Mopti region. This situation combined with other negative factors (floods, predators) negatively affects the food situation.
- In Burkina Faso, recurring terrorist-related attacks are still reported in the eastern, northern, and north-central regions and in the border areas of Mali and Niger. Food insecurity, which is partly linked to the security situation, is causing disruptions in some markets, the limited movement of cereals from surplus to deficit areas, and is hampering humanitarian interventions.

1.2.1.2. In the coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast, it has been reported in The Gambia and Senegal, major consequences of the season that have had Positive or negative impact on family farms.



- **Support measures of the States that positively affected the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery Season.** According to information from Senegalese farmer leaders, it appears that following the closure of borders, the environment has been favorable for poultry farming and the high demand for white meat. In addition to this, the efforts made by the Senegalese government through the remedial program implemented during the Season.

In The Gambia, a social price selling operation for the benefit of vulnerable family farms is being promoted. As part of food aid, the Gambian government received 4,099 tons of rice from the Japanese government and also from the Chinese government. This was sold to vulnerable family farms at a subsidized price (D400/bag). In addition, the States of all the coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast made agricultural inputs available during the Season.

- **The difficulty in marketing groundnut production due to the non-respect of commitments by industrialists and operators has a negative impact** on the income of family farms. In fact, more than 800,000 tons would remain outstanding in the hands of producers, not counting the balance to be paid to producers who have already delivered their production to industrialists.

1.2.1.3. In the predominantly forestry countries, the major consequence that could positively affect family farms has been reported in Sierra Leone. According to information from producers, the new policy change by the State through the prioritization of value chains will positively improve the life of family farms. Indeed, priority has been given to four value chains supported by three catalysts:

- (i) rice self-sufficiency which aims at increasing rice production from 3,000MT to 9,000MT,
- (ii) livestock development which aims at increasing small ruminant production to 5 million head, livestock to 2 million head and egg production to 750 million eggs per year,
- (iii) and crop diversification and tree production to cover 400,000 hectares and other crops up to 200,000 hectares.

1.2.1.4. In the coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast, major consequences that positively affected family farms have been reported in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

- State support measures in terms of agricultural inputs had a Positive impact on family farms during the 2018/2019 Agricultural Season in

Ghana. Indeed, the support of the state through the government's intervention program Planting for Food & Jobs (PFJ), with the provision of inputs (seeds and fertilizers) at subsidized prices and extension services to about 500,000 farmers gave a boost to production.)

- State support through the agricultural development program in Côte d'Ivoire during the Season was favorable to family farms. According to producers, the agricultural development program implemented by Côte d'Ivoire through projects has helped strengthen agricultural production, particularly food crops. This has considerably improved the income of family farms. (Example of the abundant cassava production observed in some areas during the season.

1.2.2. Performance of Family Farms during the 2018/2019 Agro-sylvo-pastoral and Fishery Season

The strategies developed by the family farms in the face of the difficulties encountered during the season remain similar from one agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season to another. According to producers, the strategies implemented by family farms during the 2018-2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season were of different types.

Emergency strategies carried out by family farms to cope with the shocks that occurred during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season and the lean season, it emerges from the feedback from producers:



- **Build-up of harvest stocks.** Strategies developed by farmers to build up stocks while waiting for favorable marketing periods or to cope with the lean season were observed in the 11 countries that recorded good agricultural production during the season (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo). In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, farmers built up stocks due to the drop in producer prices as well as the slump (rice, cassava, banana, maize, cola, and cashew nuts). A significant quantity remains unsold for cashew nuts, rice, cassava and banana.
 - **Recourse to extra-agricultural activities during the off-season.** This strategy, which provides family farms with daily income to cope with the lean season, is noted by most national platforms. Out of the 13 countries, 11 made use of this practice during the Season (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo). Among these non-agricultural activities, we can mention, among others, petty trade, transport, harvesting, marketing of non-timber forest products, other income generating activities, etc.
 - **Decapitalization of herds** as a strategy to cope with food difficulties encountered was reported in 2 countries during the Season, notably in The Gambia and Sierra Leone. This emergency response practice is also noted in certain so-called deficit areas of Niger through the sale of part of the herds by some herders to obtain food for families and feed for the remaining animals.
- In addition to emergency strategies, producers reported other strategies developed by farms for family food empowerment and/or increased income.

- **Specialization on cash crops.** During the Season, some producers focused on cash crops according to international price trends to increase their income in 2 coastal countries of the South Atlantic coast (Côte d'Ivoire, Togo). This option, generally dictated by the good prospects for rising crop prices, is reported in Côte d'Ivoire with the specialization of some farms on crops such as rubber, cocoa, banana and oil palm.

- **Diversification of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery production activities**, noted in the three countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali) as well as in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, it was noted that some farms combine different productions (annual crops, perennial crops, livestock ...). Farmers in the Center and the South, for their part, practice combined crops with overlap between the harvest time and the planting of another crop. For example, when groundnuts are harvested, cassava cuttings are sown.

In Niger, farmers reported the practice of growing off-season crops (market gardening) to cope with the poor harvests reported in some so-called deficit areas.

1.2.3. Responsiveness of Farmers' Organizations to the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season

During the 2018-2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, farmers' organizations developed initiatives to support family farms alone or with public institutions or other civil society organizations. These initiatives focus on the representation and defense of farmers' interests in agricultural policies and programs, market access, access to inputs, access to credit, capacity building and advice to family farms.

Representation and defense of farmers' interests: In order to strengthen the representation and defense of farmers' interests within the framework of agricultural policies and programs, the FOs developed advocacy and lobbying actions depending on the situation during the 2018-2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season, which have yielded results:

- **In Burkina Faso**, the Confédération Paysanne du Faso (Farmers' Confederation of Faso) carried out two advocacy actions during the season. An advocacy action for a budgetary reorganization taking into account support in terms of inputs, agricultural equipment and advisory support. This advocacy action was crowned by the State making available, with a slight increase in the budget usually allocated to inputs. A second advocacy action for the provision of agricultural inputs and equipment resulted in agreements for the operationalization of the Central Purchasing Agency for Agricultural Inputs and Equipment (CAIMA). The Confédération Paysanne du Faso also called on the State, which led to the adoption of decrees implementing the law on agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife (LOASPHF).

- **In Senegal**, the National Council for Consultation and Cooperation of Rural People (CNCR) held a hearing with candidates for the presidential election, but also with the Senegalese Association for the Promotion of Grassroots Development (ASPRODEB) in the context of the revision of Decree 85 178 reorganizing the allowances at the Ministry of Commerce, but no action was taken.
- **In Niger**, as part of the holding of the general assembly on rural land tenure that should lead to the drafting of a land tenure law, the farmers' platform called on the authorities to involve civil society actors in the committee in charge of the law and to take their contribution into account in the final document.

Market access: For trade rules favorable to local production in most countries, FOs developed services for linking, storing and marketing products during the 2018-2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season.

- In Burkina Faso, the Confédération Paysanne du Faso has organized actions to put FOs in contact with local authorities, State institutions, schools and training centers, and NGOs for the supply of food products.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, in order to overcome certain difficulties such as the slump in product sales, the FOs carried out group sales, market research, sensitization of producers and stock building, often in difficult conditions.
- In Senegal, farmers have made a case for (ii) marketing through cooperatives (FAFA), (iii) and the establishment of a marketing fund for purchasing products (FNPROSE, FNGPF) thanks to the support of their organizations.



Access to inputs: Every year, States attempt to make access to inputs and livestock feed easier through public services in this area. In addition, quantities of inputs or feed subsidized by the State to ease this access vary from one year to another. Initiatives developed by FOs for the supply of inputs to family farms were highlighted in the countries. In fact, in view of the decline in public subsidies observed by producers in The Gambia and Sierra Leone during the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral season, FOs have developed their own initiatives to control the supply of inputs to FFS.



Access to loan: In Burkina Faso, the signature of a master agreement by the CPF with certain financial institutions for interest rate subsidies on bank loans. In Côte d'Ivoire, the support provided by the Agricultural Production and Marketing Support Project enabled two producer organizations (PFACI, USCAB) to benefit from loans through financial institutions for cassava and cashew nut production.



Capacity building and awareness raising of members: FOs organized Training activities on various topics for their members during the Season. In Burkina Faso, for example, the CPF organized a capacity building activity for young people through training in leadership and agricultural entrepreneurship. In Côte d'Ivoire, ANOPACI also organized a training session for producers from USCAB, FEMACI and FENARIZ-CI on cooperative spirit as well as awareness-raising activities for building up stocks. These actions of awareness raising of FOs helped in the organization of grouped sales operations.

The conclusions drawn by Farmers' Organizations at the end of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season are twofold:

- Continuation of advocacy and lobbying of public institutions by farmers' organizations to support family farms must be strengthened through the development of concrete initiatives to move forward on proposed solutions.
- Positive assessments of farmers' organizations are conveyed in the various solicitations and inclusive implications in the implementation of actions developed by State structures. The proposals made by FOs towards States, policies are increasingly and more materialized in the field. The effectiveness of these actions contributes to the improvement of the living conditions of the various family farms.







Chapter II :

Trends of the 2019/2020
agro-sylvo-pastoral
and fishery season

This second chapter of the report assesses, from the farmers' point of view, (i) the conditions for the implementation and the first stages of the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, (ii) the characteristics of the lean season and the behavior of family farms during the lean season, (iii) the first harvests and prospects for results from the farmers' point of view, as well as (iv) the measures taken by the Farmers' Organizations in relation to the current season.

2.1. Conditions of implementation and the first stages of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season 2019/2020

The start-up process of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season was stood out by the development of season plans reported in 2 countries (Mali, Senegal). In Mali, the development of an agricultural season plan harmonized between the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Fishery was the first step in the development of the season. In Senegal as well, the process of preparation of the Agricultural season started with the inter-ministerial council devoted to the assessment of the 2018-2019 season and the measures to be taken for the present season.

During the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral season, the level of satisfaction of water needs was globally good in the 12 ROPPA member countries except for Senegal where it was deemed to be in deficit. According to the information collected by the national platforms, rainfall was generally satisfactory in 12 countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Benin, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Togo). In Togo, agro-climatic conditions for the 2018-2019 agricultural season were generally satisfactory with regular rainfall. The first useful rains were recorded as early as March 2019 in the southern part of the country with cumulative rainfall ranging from 63.6 mm to 158.3 mm falling between 6 and 11 days. In Mali, the agro-climatic situation was characterized by a difficult start with rainfall resuming in several parts of the country at the end of July 2019. The cumulative rainfall recorded as of September 10, 2019 is greater than or equal to the level of the previous year.

Pockets of drought and flooding were reported in some countries causing delays in the execution of cultivation operations. Although water quantities received were considered satisfactory overall compared to the 2018/2019 Season, rainfall was characterized by poor spatial and temporal distribution. In some countries, this resulted in pockets of drought (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, The Gambia) and flooding (Niger, Benin, Sierra

Leone). Dry sequences lasting more than 10 days in the month of June were reported in Burkina Faso and Mali, causing delays in the execution of cultivation operations.

A generally calm phytosanitary situation. According to the information provided by national platforms, it appears that the phytosanitary situation was calm and well managed in all 13 countries. However, a few attacks were reported in three countries (Burkina Faso, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire) without a significant impact on the progress of the season. Fall armyworm attacks on approximately 94,000 ha were reported in Burkina Faso between August and September 2019.

Continued insecurity hampering the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season in certain regions of the Sudanian Sahelo Strip. Like the previous season, the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, which is taking place in a context of civil insecurity affecting a large part of the countries in the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso), continues to negatively affect family farms and production areas. This situation has led to loss of human life and massive displacement of the population. According to official information, as of October 2, 2019, the number of internally displaced persons was estimated at 486,360 in Burkina Faso. Practice of transhumance, hampered in some places by insecurity, is reported in Niger. Movement of animals to grazing areas is hampered by attacks by armed bandits (border with Burkina Faso and Mali, around Lake Chad).



Support measures of the States in inputs remained stationary during this Season compared to that of 2018/2019.

Good preparation of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season is shown by the easy access to factors of production that allow a good agricultural production. During the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, farmers noted a decline in support for access to inputs in three countries (Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Liberia) and significant support from States in 10 countries (Benin, Niger, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Togo, Senegal). In Benin, the arrangements made by the Government in terms of support to seed production during the Season are 1681.35 tons of seed for maize, 432.47 tons of seed for rice and 217.385 tons of soybean seed respectively. In addition, 285,484 tons of fertilizers (NPK and Urea) for food crops and 14,000 tons of cotton fertilizers. The same is true in Niger, where the region of Dosso for example, benefited from a first batch of 96 tons of millet, sorghum and cowpea seeds supported by the State and made available to the departments of Dogondoutchi and Tibiri, endowing the region with fertilizer. To this end, CAIMA received a large tonnage of DAP, NPK and urea fertilizer and 3825 liters of pesticide. Farmers in Guinea Bissau also reported the receipt of rice, groundnut, cowpea and maize seeds as well as small equipment.

Observation of producers during the Season also highlighted other types of additional support in storage infrastructure and equipment in 3 countries (Benin, Senegal, Sierra Leone). According to the missions of the season's monitoring committee in Senegal, as of July 16, 2019, in Kolda, 14 tractors out of 22 had already been received. In Benin, WAEMU provided support to strengthen the storage capacity to reduce FOst-harvest losses through the building of 24 stores throughout the country. State support through the provision of tractors to producers was also reported in Sierra Leone.

The support provided by the State through advisory services to producers during the season was also highlighted by 3 countries. These include Côte d'Ivoire where most of the FOs benefited from the supervision and advice of the National Rural Development Support Agency (ANADER) and Niger through the provision of 10 new agents assigned in the municipalities in order to fill the gap and provide support and advice to producers. In the government of Ghana's support resulted in the hiring of more than 1,000 agricultural extension agents to support the «Livestock for Food and Employment» intervention program."

2.2. Characteristics of lean hunger season and behavior of family farms during lean season

The 2019 lean season was longer and more severe in the Sudanese Sahelo-Sudanian strip and in Senegal for family farms compared to the previous year. The 2019 lean season was less severe in the majority of countries (09/13).

From the point of view of the farmer monitoring system, in the countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso), the lean season was longer and more severe compared to that of the previous year. The lean season affected all the areas severely affected by insecurity or «red» zones, particularly the northern Sahelian and southern Sudanese zones in Burkina Faso. Following the crop losses recorded in the various regions of central Mali, where there was no production in the northern localities due to flooding and insecurity, the lean season was very long. Millet and sorghum as the main staple foods were lacking during the lean season. In addition to the security issue, the lean season in Niger was more severe in terms of food security for both humans and animals.

In the coastal countries of the West Atlantic coast (Gambia, Guinea, Senegal), only Senegal experienced a longer and more difficult lean season compared to last year. The 2 other countries (The Gambia, Guinea) had relatively short lean seasons.

The 2019 lean season was also not very severe and was relatively better managed by family farms than last year's lean season in the coastal countries with dominant forests (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) and the countries of the South Atlantic coast (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo).

According to the two national platforms that shared information on the behavior of family farms during the lean season (Burkina Faso and Senegal), it appears that they have developed some of the usual strategies during this season to cope with this difficult period. In Burkina Faso, farmers reported several types of behaviors they adopted to mitigate shocks. These include the development of self-help and solidarity mechanisms, selling productive assets or livestock products, reducing non-food expenditures, buying food on credit or borrowing money, the development of income-generating activities by women, barter, the use of food aid including measures taken by the government to make food available at social prices in the control stores or measures affecting people's diets such as reducing the quantity and number of daily meals. In Senegal, coping strategies for many families

involve getting into debt and resorting to other family members who are out of the home or to changes in eating habits. Exodus (girls and boys) is also a means of alleviating difficulties according to the producers.

2.3. Prospects for the results of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season

Trends towards overall average results for the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season in the 13 West African countries according to farmers. Thus we note a trend of decreasing production in 6 countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Senegal) and an upward trend in 7 (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Liberia, Togo).

Compared to the 2018/2019 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, 11 countries had a better season (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin) while 2 countries recorded a Bad season (Gambia, Sierra Leone,) from the farmers' point of view.

Declines in production reported in Mali during the 2019/2020 Season do not confirm the information given by official sources. Despite the average to good trends announced by technical services with an increase of 7%, producers report strong concerns for the following reasons: Recorded floods that have caused resurfacing and recovery in the region of Kayes, Koulikoro resulting in the loss of 6,221 ha in the Office de Haute Vallée of Niger area, 48 ha in the Office de Développement Rural of Sélingué and 300 ha in Kouroumari, Ndébougou, Molodo, and Mbewani in the Office du Niger area, causing crop losses and displacement due to the collapse of houses in the Inner Niger Delta. In addition, the abandonment or prohibition of exploitation of nearly 72,065 ha by armed groups in the circles of Bankass, Mopti, Djenné, Koro and Douentza in the Mopti region and the persistent banditry on the road arteries of Gao have made it difficult for suppliers to transport agricultural inputs to producers in the region.

A difficult pastoral situation in the Sahelo-Sudanian strip and early departures in transhumance. According to the information provided by 09 national platforms, the availability of pasture is considered satisfactory in 5 countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Togo, Liberia) and fodder deficits were reported in the 3 countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali) and in Senegal. This fodder deficit situation was similar to that of last year and in the same countries. According to the herders, the pastoral situation looks difficult in general. In Niger, the areas at risk of low pasture production are essentially the pastoral areas of Diffa, Zinder, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Dosso; in Mali the regions of Kayes and Sikasso; in Burkina Faso, the Eastern and Sahel regions and in Senegal in the departments of Podor, Dagana and Matam and the extreme north of the department of Louga.

According to herders, the late start of the season and the long pockets of drought observed in most of the pastoral zone explain the poor fodder production in the region. Although the rains in August and September helped improve pastures and the filling of water points, they did not really reverse the trend at the beginning of the season.

The security tension prevailing in the Sudanese Sahelo-Sudanian strip will contribute to the deterioration of food situation for livestock. According to some pastoralists, this persistent insecurity in the Sahel region has led to animal thefts and loss of human life during the season: in Burkina Faso (North Central, Sahel, East), Mali (Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, Timbuktu, Segou), and Niger (Diffa, South Maradi, Tillabéry, Tahoua). High concentrations of animals are also reported in the so-called secure areas. This could have a negative impact on the availability of natural resources.

In view of the difficult food situation for livestock, herders (departure of animals from Mauritania to Senegal and Mali, and from Burkina Faso to Togo) have reported early departures for transhumance. It should be noted that in some host countries, particularly Benin, provisions are made to prohibit the practice of cross-border transhumance, which limits pastoral mobility causing non-exploitation of the areas provided for grazing. Internal movements could also increase in regions affected by insecurity.

2.4. Measures made by Farmers' Organizations in relation to the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season

During the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, some farmers' organizations made arrangements to support family farms. According to feedback from farmers in the three countries (Mali, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire), the measures taken by FOs include support for marketing agricultural products, advocacy, fundraising, supply of inputs and bags for storing groundnuts.

- **Marketing through group sales and advocacy for institutional purchases.**

In Mali, some farmers' organizations organize themselves into cooperatives for group sales of products in order to obtain remunerative prices. In addition, organizations such as the National Platform of Rice Producers, Faso Jigi, the Interprofessions rice, maize, sesame, organize advocacy actions with the government, NGOs and international institutions in order to maintain and diversify institutional purchases. Consultation frameworks including financing institutions are being set up under the aegis of the FOs to facilitate agricultural financing.



- **Support for marketing of agricultural products.**

In Côte d'Ivoire, some FOs (USCAB, FENARIZ-CI, PFACI, APPEXCO-CI, Canne Villageoise) support farmers through the search for stable prices, regular communication of product prices to farmers, the perpetual search for outlets for food crops in particular, and support for sub-contracted production.



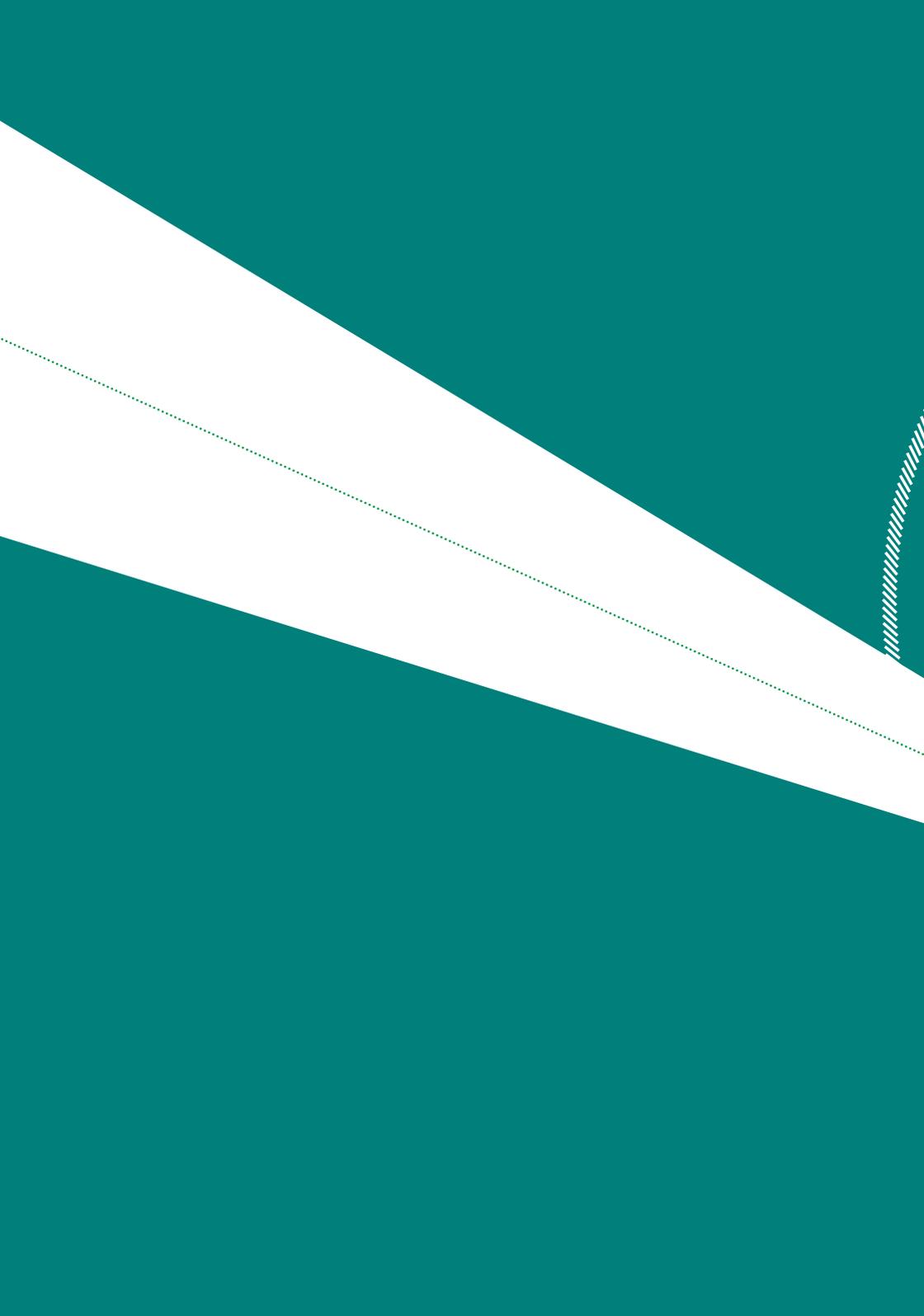
- **Supplying family farms with agricultural inputs.**

Since the beginning of the Season in Senegal, arrangements have been made by FOs through ASPRODEB to ensure a correct supply of inputs (fertilizers and seeds). Within this framework, more

than 10,348 tons and 2034 tons of seeds have been distributed within the groundnut producers' network for the current Season. This is also reported in Côte d'Ivoire, through the support of the FOGs to farmers for the supply of inputs and agricultural equipment, the search for funding for inputs and seeds and the reconstitution of input funds to ease the start of the season.



- **Support and guidance to farmers' organizations for the supply of bags for groundnut storage.** In Senegal, the CNCR has developed one of its programs to support farmers' organizations involved in the groundnut sector to provide support and assistance in the supply of bags. This support, in the form of a collective project, is in its second operation, thus increasing from 82,000 bags to 257,000 bags for a total cost of 20,000,000 FCFA.





Chapter III :

Overall conclusions of farmers' organizations on the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season

The third chapter of the report summarizes the highlights of the feedback from the national platforms relating to (i) the comparative analysis of the two agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery Seasons 2018/2020 and 2019/2020, (ii) draws the lessons of the farmers' organizations of the Season, (iii) and highlights the points of improvement in the monitoring of the Seasons by the Farmers' Organizations.

3.1. Comparative analysis of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

Comparative analyses of the agro-sylvo-pastoral seasons 2018/2019 and those of 2019/2020, from the farmers' point of view, show similarities and some points of divergence:

The trend results of agro-sylvo-pastoral production 2019/2020 to the decline compared to the Season 2018/2019 from the point of view of farmers. Producers in 7 countries (Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin) report prospects of increased production during the current season and a decrease in production in 6 countries (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone). Compared to the 2018/2019 Season, production trends were reported to be satisfactory in 11 countries (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin) and poor in only 2 countries (The Gambia, Sierra Leone).

Slightly better rainfall during the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral season compared to the 2018/2019 season. According to information from the two seasons, rainfall was generally satisfactory during the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries season in 12 countries (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo), Benin) and bad in only one country (Senegal) compared to the 2018/2019 Season where it was satisfactory in 11 countries (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin) and bad in 2 countries (Gambia, Sierra Leone).

However, this rainfall was also characterized by poor spatial and

temporal distribution reported in 5 countries (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Sierra Leone) during the current season causing delays in the execution of crop operations compared to the previous year where it was reported in only 2 countries (The Gambia, Sierra Leone).

State support measures in inputs during the current Season were equal to those of the 2018 /2019 Season, although variations within countries were evident. During the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries Season, out of the 13 member countries of the network, support for access to agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers) subsidized by 10 States (Benin, Niger, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Togo, Senegal) and a decrease in support in 3 countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Liberia). Compared to the previous season, state support for access to inputs was reported in 10 countries (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin) and low in 3 countries (The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia).

A fodder deficit situation in the 2019/2020 Season substantially similar to that of the previous Season heralding a difficult food situation for livestock. Feedback from the 9 platforms indicates that according to the farmers, there is a fodder deficit during the current season in 4 countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal), in contrast to the previous season when the deficit was reported in 3 countries (Mali, Gambia, Senegal) out of the 13 member countries of the network. In addition, there are early transhumance departures (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali) and the ban on the practice of cross-border transhumance in Benin reported by pastoralists.

Exacerbation of terrorism-related insecurity during the current season as opposed to the 2018/2019 season. Persistence of security tension in the three countries of the Sahelo-Sudanian strip (Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali) was more evident during the current Season according to producers, significantly affecting the physical integrity of people, agro-sylvo-pastoral activities and the livelihoods of family farms.

3.2. Lessons learned by farmers' organizations on the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishing season

With regard to the observations of Farmers' Organizations on the monitoring of the 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery season, the main lessons and lessons learned are essentially the following:

- Existence Progressive existence of a critical mass of Farmers' Organizations leaders capable of better understanding and defending the results of the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons. The exercise of analysis of the results of the Seasons by the managers of the national platforms and federations allowed to have a common understanding of the participatory approach of results consolidation but also to strengthen the capacities of the members. Today, several FO leaders are in a position to carry and defend the results of the Seasons.
- The combined efforts of FOs and States can help reduce some of the negative consequences of the seasons on family farms. Indeed, during the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons, the positive effects of the factors can be enhanced or their negative effects mitigated by the action of producers and public authorities (in particular the strengthening of State support measures in terms of inputs, marketing, support for FOs in general ...).
- The results of the farmer monitoring of the seasons allow FOs to adjust their support to family farms. Appearance and results of the seasons shed light on the performance of family farms as well as on the orientations and decisions that they must take in carrying out their activities.
- Development of more appropriate public policies to enhance the contributions of pastoralism to the food and nutritional security of communities. Pastoralism is a means of subsistence for several thousand people in West Africa. During the 2019/2020 Season, there was a more pronounced fodder deficit compared to the previous season. In addition to this, there are early transhumance departures of pastoralists (Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali) and the ban on the practice of cross-border transhumance in Benin reported by pastoralists. A high-level mission is needed to address this urgent concern.

3.3. Improvement areas in the monitoring of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries seasons by farmers' organizations

Following the farmers' observations carried out during the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons in the 13 countries by farmers' organizations, a certain number of proposals for the improvement of the monitoring of the seasons emerge. The Farmers' Organizations believe that action should be taken in the following main directions:

- Improvement of States' subsidy system based on an exhaustive evaluation that would lead to orientations to make them more effective.
- Involvement of Farmers' Organizations in the heart of the devices and mechanisms of follow-up of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery seasons in the countries.
- Improvement of mechanisms and tools for collecting information on the seasons taking into account the realities of family farms.
- Setting up practices for sharing the results of the seasons in the different areas prior to the brief at the national level.
- Improvement of the environment and measures to be taken for a good marketing of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery products.
- Increased support to the FOs to enable them to intensify their monitoring of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery Seasons.
- Effective involvement of farmers' organizations by the States in the country systems of the harmonized frameworks.
- Strengthening of national support systems and local assistance to family farms through the partnership between FO and the State, particularly for better access to appropriate advisory, training and research services. In most of the countries, FOs noted the inadequacy of counseling for family farms due to the low level of public services. FO/State partnership for family farm advisory services is recommended by the farmers' organizations in the 13 countries.



