I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Agriculture is a dominant economic sector in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), but its low productivity and growth seriously erodes the competitiveness of African products on world and domestic markets. As a net importer of cereals (i.e. rice, wheat) and livestock products, West Africa is severely affected by the current rise in global food and fuel prices. Intra-regional agricultural trade remains limited and its share of total world agricultural trade is marginal. Climate change, increasing population and degradation of natural resources are posing additional challenges to rural livelihoods in this natural resources dependent economy.

The ECOWAS members, which are all low income countries, face an urgent need for improved agricultural productivity, so as to satisfy food needs of their growing and increasingly urbanized
population, to promote sustainable economic growth and reduce rural poverty, and build a strong regional agricultural market for primary and transformed agricultural products. To this end, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has initiated the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). ECOWAS has initiated a sub-regional approach through its agricultural policy (ECOWAP) and supports the formulation and implementation of harmonized National Agricultural Investment Programs.

CAADP has four pillars, the fourth being agricultural research, technology dissemination, and technology adoption, further articulated within the Framework for Africa’s Agricultural Productivity (FAAP). Managed by FARA at continental level, the mandate for agricultural research for West Africa was given to the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development/Conseil Ouest et Centre Afrique pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricole (WECARD/CORAF), henceforth referred to as CORAF.

In 2010-2011, the ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture coordinated the participatory preparation and adoption of National Agricultural Investment Programs (NAIP) in the 15 Member States and of a mobilizing program at the regional level. The signing of compacts by stakeholders of each country and at regional level is a sign of commitment that these NAIPs are the main framework for all donors interventions.

**Sectoral and Institutional Context**

Agriculture contributes for 35% of the region's GDP, up to 60% employment, and income generation. Regional production covers 80% of the population's food needs in ECOWAS. Overall output growth rates have been about the same as population growth. However, the growth of the sector is based on a model of extensification of production, with low productivity, high use of natural resources, and low labor remuneration.

One of the main challenges is to satisfy the demands of rapidly growing population that is expected to increase from 300 million in 2011 to 500 million by 2030. The recent food, fuel and financial crisis resulting from the increases in world food prices has demonstrated the need to base food security in West Africa on utilization of the region's agricultural potential. This option would simultaneously contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty.

The West African Agricultural Productivity Project (WAAPP) is a two-phase, ten-year, horizontal and vertical Adaptable Program Lending (APL), to support the implementation of CAADP’s agricultural research and development (R&D) pillar, as reflected in the national agricultural investment plans and the regional mobilizing program. The overall goal of the WAAPP is to contribute to agricultural productivity increase in the participating countries. Under the first phase of WAAPP, the Board approved three series of support projects, including WAAPP-1A (Mali, Senegal and Ghana) in 2007, WAAPP-1B (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria) in 2010 and WAAPP-1C (Benin, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Togo) in 2011. While there is still a need to complete the coverage of the entire ECOWAS countries with the inclusion of Guinea Bissau and Cap Verde in the program, the countries under WAAPP-1A are at the end of the first phase of the program, and have requested to start their second phase. Hence the subject of this proposed project.

**Relationship to CAS**

The WAAPP will continue to be an instrument of the World Bank’s Regional Integration Assistance
Strategy (RIAS) for West Africa and its Regional Action Plan for sub-Saharan Africa. The program also supports the implementation of the Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) in the region, and contributes to achieving two principal objectives of the Bank: (i) make agriculture more productive and sustainable to increase economic growth, improve food security, and reduce poverty; and (ii) support regional integration. The WAAPP-2A will continue to provide a regional framework for ECOWAS countries to collaborate in the implementation of national and regional agricultural strategies for technology generation, dissemination and use in local farming systems.

II. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s) (From PCN)

The development objective of WAAPP-2A is to scale-up the generation, dissemination and adoption of improved technologies in the participating countries’ priority agricultural commodity areas. The participating countries’ priority areas are aligned with the sub-region’s top agricultural commodity priorities, as outlined in the ECOWAP. In order to reach this objective, the Project will strengthen the regional cooperation in generation of technology, and scale-up dissemination and training programs focused on regional and national priority commodities.

Key Results (From PCN)

The expected outcome at the end of the Program are: (i) 60 percent of the beneficiaries of the Project adopted improved varieties; (ii) At least 2 countries with productivity increase of at least 25% achieved over the control technology for at least two of the region’s top priority commodity; and (iii) Increase in productivity by at least 25% of targeted commodities (crop, livestock); (iv) adoption of improved varieties by at least 70 percent of the targeted beneficiaries of the project, with clear spill-over effects across participating countries.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The proposed WAAPP-2A has four components which are: (i) Component 1: Enabling conditions for Sub-Regional Cooperation in the Generation, Dissemination and Adoption of Agricultural Technologies that aims at strengthening the mechanisms and procedures for the exchange of technologies, so as to allow participating countries to benefit fully from the regional cooperation in technology generation and exchange; (ii) Component 2: National Centers of Specialization that aims at strengthening regional cooperation in technology generation by aligning national priorities with regional priorities. It will also support the upgrading of the National Centers of Specialization (NCOS) into Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoE), focusing on drought-resistant cereals in Senegal, rice in Mali and root and tuber crops in Ghana. At the regional level, research networks will be established with related national commodity research teams in WAAPP countries, and technical support be sought from specialized CGIAR centers, as required; (iii) Component 3: Support to Demand-driven Technology Generation, Dissemination and Adoption that aims at strengthening priority-focused demand-driven agricultural R&D and scale-up technology dissemination and training within participating countries; and Component 4: Project Coordination, Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. The project will be coordinated at the national levels by existing national coordinating units which successfully coordinated the implementation of WAAPP1A and at the regional level by CORAF.

IV. Safeguard Policies that might apply
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>No</th>
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<td>Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01</td>
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<td>Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60</td>
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V. Financing (in USD Million)

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<td>International Development Association (IDA)</td>
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VI. Contact point

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