1. Key development issues and rationale for Bank involvement

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is home to 290 million people in 15 low-income countries. About 65 percent of the population lives in rural area and most depend on agriculture which contributes 35 percent of the regional GDP and over 15 percent of exports. The region is food self-insufficient and food insecure (particularly in the North or Sahel) with about 20 percent of its imports being food products. As a natural resources dependent economy, climate change is posing an additional challenge to rural livelihoods.

2. There is an urgent need for regional integration to strengthen food security and promote agriculture-led growth. The rational being (i) There is a maturation of the CAADAP process with the signing of country compacts under the leadership of ECOWAS emphasizing the role of regional coordination and cooperation, (ii) lessons from the implementation of WAAPP-1 strongly validate the regional focus for the program including the need for trans-boundary technology generation to enable countries in the sub region to confront similar challenges; (iii) CORAF has acquired with its current enhanced capacities could play a coordination role, facilitate knowledge sharing and provide relevant advisory services to the NARS; (iv) there are new challenges and urgencies that require joint efforts of countries within the region (food and fuel crisis, financial crisis, climate change).

3. The WAAPP is a two phases, ten years, horizontal APL to support the implementation of ECOWAP through the implementation of CAADP’s fourth pillar (the MAPP). The first phase (WAAPP-1) started in June 2007 and involved three countries: Ghana, Mali and Senegal. Successful results achieved in the three pilot countries (in the domains of harmonizing regulations, setting up centers of specialization, operating demand-driven research systems, sharing researchers and released technologies) justify Bank’s support for an horizontal extension of the program to all ECOWAS member states. The design of this program demonstrates the Bank’s long term support to technology/knowledge generation and dissemination, capacity building, and regional integration. The Bank has already been supporting ECOWAS member states at the national level in the area of technology generation and dissemination, and is therefore well suited to help create synergies and added value among national projects.
2. Proposed objective(s)

4. The development objective of the 10-year APL is to contribute to agricultural productivity increase in the participating countries’ top priority commodity sub-sectors that are aligned with regional priorities.

5. While building on the first phase’s structure and achievements, the second phase (WAAPP-1B) is a deepening and expansion phase that will see further strengthening of the centers of specialization, consolidation of the technology dissemination system and generation of an increased number of technologies. It will also carry out activities to further strengthen the enabling conditions and M&E, but will mostly concentrate resources on strengthening the NCOS initiated in the first phase and mainstreaming its demand-driven competitive agricultural grant scheme.

6. The development objective of WAAP-1B (the project) is to generate and disseminate improved technologies in the participating countries’ top priority areas that are aligned with the region’s top priorities, as identified by CORAF.

7. The key project outcome indicators are as follows: (i) at least three improved technologies in the participating countries’ top priority areas have been released by these countries at the end of the phase; (ii) out of the three improved technologies released by each country, at least one should show improvement in yield by 15 percent over the control technology. The key intermediate indicators for the project will be: (i) the NCOs in areas of both national and regional priorities have been developed by participating countries within their NARS; (ii) at least 85 percent of completed competitive grant sub-project have been implemented successfully, as assessed by independent review panels of experts; and (iii) a system for data collection, analysis and reporting on regional agricultural productivity is established and working satisfactorily.

3. Preliminary description

8. The project will have 4 components namely:

9. Component 1: Enabling Conditions for Regional Cooperation in Technology Generation and Dissemination. This component aims at strengthening the mechanisms and procedures for the dissemination of technology, so as to allow countries to benefit fully from the regional cooperation in technology generation. It will therefore build on achievements of the first phase of WAAPP (WAAPP-1) to scale up supports to improving and aligning national and regional regulations and standards to ECOWAS regulations.

10. Component 2: National Centers of Specialization. This component aims at strengthening the alignment of national priorities with regional priorities within participant countries' national agricultural research systems (NARS).

11. Component 3: Funding of Demand-Driven Technology Generation and Adoption. Will consists of two sub-components:

12. Sub-component 3-1: Demand-Driven Technology Generation. It aims at strengthening priority-focused, transparent funding mechanisms for demand-driven agricultural R&D within participating countries. The sub-component will focus on areas that have been identified as high
priority at both the national and regional levels. The project will thus ensure that work carried out in the participating countries will have great relevance to the region. Eligible activities will cover all key constraints along the supply chain of these commodity sub-sectors. Activities may concern new, as well as on-the-shelf agricultural technologies with potential for quick impact.

13. This sub-component will support a competitive agricultural grant system (CARGS) and a limited (non-competitive) core funding with strong buy-in from major stakeholders.

14. **Sub-component 3-2: Accelerated technology adoption.** This sub-component aims at boosting the transfer and adoption of released technologies. It will support: (i) stakeholder workshops for the preparation of national dissemination action plans for released technologies; (ii) promotion of these technologies, using various media; (iii) training on released technologies for the extension service providers including national extension services, NGOs, input dealers; (iv) field demonstrations of released technologies; (v) support the development of a seed production system including the production of breeder and foundation seed and training of seed producers and agro-dealers; and (vi) review of national technology transfer systems followed by a regional workshop to provide policy recommendations to Governments and ECOWAS on how to bridge the yield gap between farmers and research.

15. **Component 4: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.** This component aims at establishing an effective coordination, management and M&E system at the national and regional levels. The Project will be implemented by CORAF (ECOWAS’ mandated implementing agency) at the regional level and by the national coordinating units at the national levels.

4. **Safeguard policies that might apply**

16. Environmental Assessment and Pests Management Policies may be triggered by collaborative technology generation and dissemination and competitive partnership activities. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) prepared for the first three countries will be updated to cover the new entrants.

5. **Tentative financing**

Source: (US$m.)

- BORROWER/RECIPIENT: 12
- International Development Association (IDA): 120
- Local Communities: 4

Total: 136

6. **Contact point**

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