



RESILIENT GRAIN MARKETS: **UNLOCKING AFRICA'S FOOD SECURITY POTENTIAL**

2ND-4TH, OCTOBER 2025 | ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

Main Session 1

High-Level Grain Trade Media Dialogue.

From agreement to action: Will AfCFTA deliver resilient grain markets and food security for Africa?



Justin
Bayili

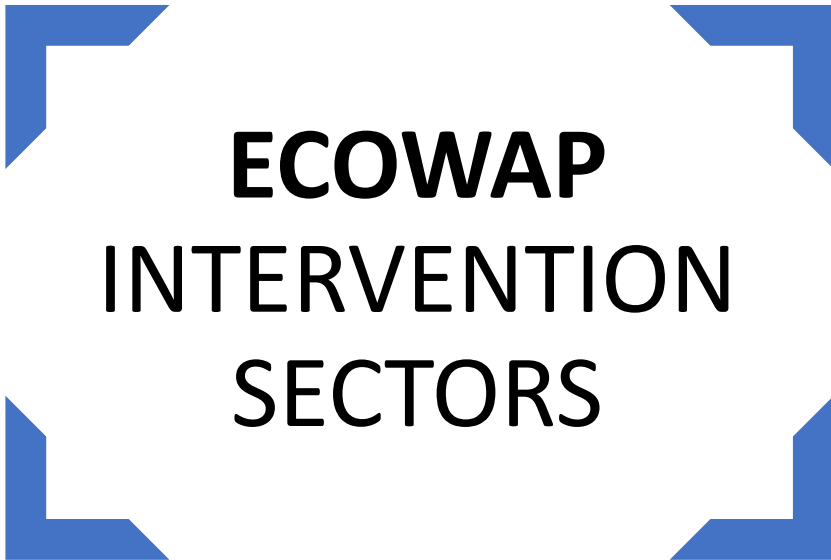
**Expert in Regional
Integration Directorate
of Agriculture**
ECOWAS

**Session
Sponsors:**





ECOWAP INTERVENTION SECTORS

					
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Projects	Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness • West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) • West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) • ECOWAS Rice Observatory (ERO)	Policies	Sustainable Agriculture and Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change • Framework for Action and the Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture in West Africa [2015] • COP21, the birth of the Paris Agreement [2015] • More on ECOWAP website	Projects	Resilience of Food Systems, Food and Nutrition Security • FIRST project • FSRP • PATAE • PASANAO • PRAOP • The Zero Hunger project • Climate Smart Agriculture project • Fruit fly project • The capacity building project for the ECOWAP
Policies/Projects	Pastoralism, Livestock Development and Animal Health • PEPISAO • Development of a regional strategy to double the volume of local fresh milk production to 10 billion litres per year by 2030. • More on ECOWAP website	Policies	Gender in Agriculture and youth Employment in the Food chains and Agro-forestry-pastoral and Fisheries (ASPH) Sector or Agro Sylvo Pastorale et Halieutique Sector • Development of a regional strategy to double the volume of local fresh milk production to 10 billion litres per year by 2030.	Policies/Program	Pest Management, Plant Pest Control and SPS Measures • Regional Innovative Fruit Flies Control System in West Africa (SyRIMAO) instituted [2022] • Harmonized Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) standards • More on ECOWAP website
Policies/Program	Fisheries and Aquaculture • PESCAO program • The development of a draft strategic framework for the ECOWAS Blue Economy (ECOBESF) covering fisheries, aquaculture, mining, tourism, trade, and freshwater rivers[2022] • More on ECOWAP Website	Project/Program	Institutional & Organizational Capacity Building • The Support Program for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor) • The West African Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (WA-BiCC) • More on ECOWAP website	Policies/Program	Environment, Forest, and Biodiversity Conservation • The ECOWAS Environmental Policy was adopted in 2008 • The West African Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (WA-BiCC) • Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor)



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ECOWAS RICE OBSERVATORY (ERO)

...Partnership towards effective coordination



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



 Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



 Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



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The ECOWAS Rice Observatory (ERO) aims to help West African nations achieve rice self-sufficiency

- The **ECOWAS Rice Observatory (ERO)** is a **multi-stakeholder forum**, conceptualized and established by ECOWAS, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and CARI
- The ERO's **main objective** is to help key actors in the West African rice sector **better coordinate policy** and **work synergistically**
- It will have a **bottom-up structure**, where the **action taken at a regional level** is based on the **strategic priorities identified by national-level stakeholders**



Joint vision

“to collectively bring political and financial capital, partnerships, and expertise to achieve rice self-sufficiency in West Africa by 2030 through profitable, resilient, and environmentally sustainable farming and milling enterprises that contribute to rural economic growth, poverty reduction, and women’s equity.”



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Conceptualized Role & Function

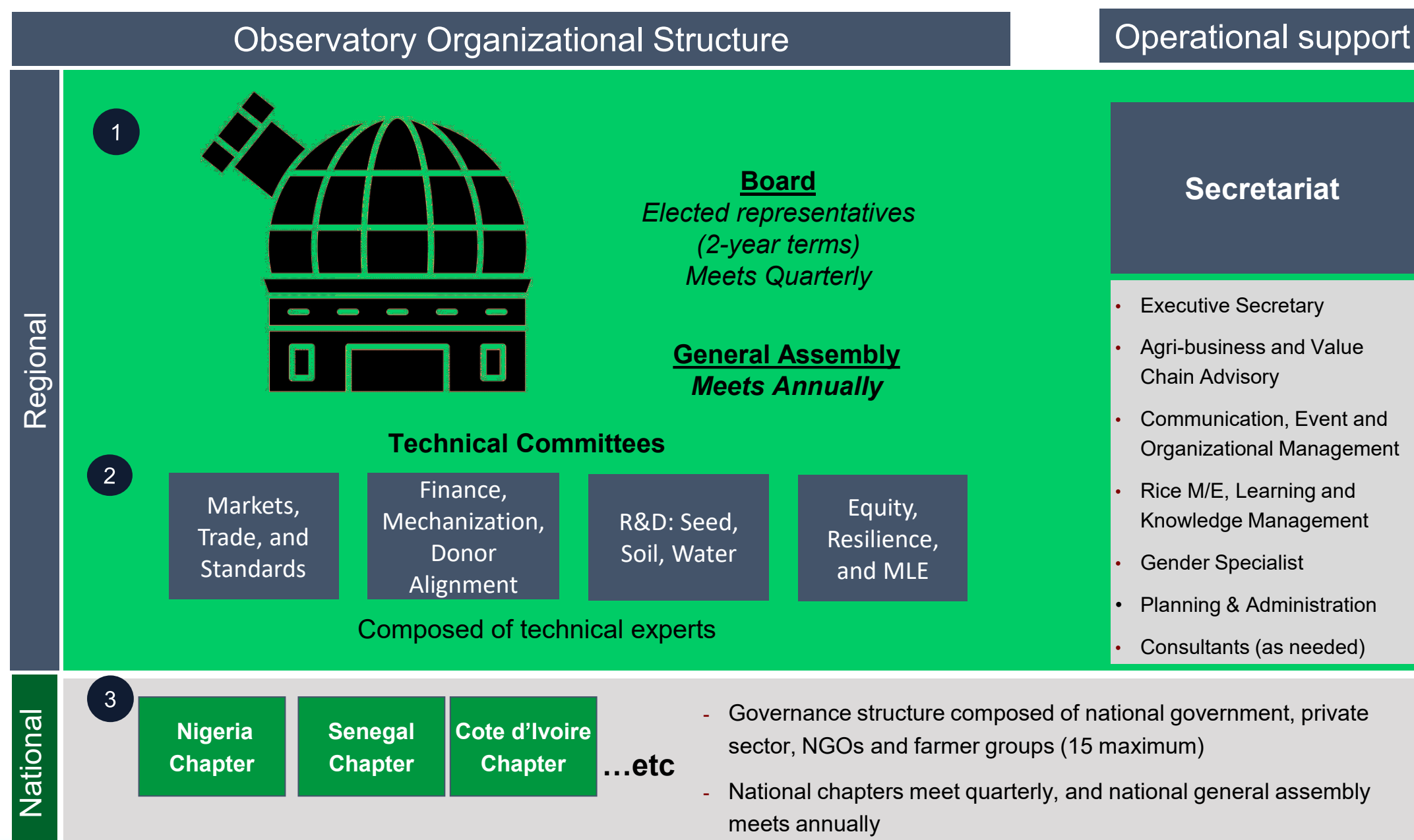
1. Provide **private sector and market perspective** to help inform the implementation of the **ECOWAS Rice Offensive** strategy and action plan, and coordination with governments and donors
2. Provide input on **policy harmonization** from the private sector's and farmers' perspectives.
3. Coordinate **access to finance** for the major actors and activities along the RVC (millers, farmers, and infrastructure)

The vision of the ERO is fully aligned with the **ECOWAS Rice Offensive & the Action Plan** → **Establish a Coordination Unit for implementation – Component 6**



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The ERO operates at both regional and national levels, supported by a full-time secretariat



THANK YOU.

