



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

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GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSION BY THE AGRICULTURAL

This first issue marks the launch of the RESCAR-AOC Monitoring Bulletin for the year 2026, developed as part of the DéSIRA+AO Project (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture). This project aims to support family farms in an agroecological transition that balances economic performance, food security, resilience, and environmental conservation. This bulletin explores the theme of **Governance and Inclusion**, the fundamental foundation of any effective and equitable agricultural advisory system.

Three questions form the framework of this issue:

- What are the priorities for agricultural extension in West and Central Africa in the face of global crises?
- Current Situation in West and Central Africa
- What role do women play in the ongoing agroecological transitions?



Governance, Inclusion, and Crises: Why This Bulletin Now?

In West and Central Africa, 52.7 million people face acute food insecurity. Millions of farmers produce crops without adequate guidance, while thousands of agricultural extension workers operate without networks, resources, and often without recognition. This newsletter explores these challenges and proposes solutions.

For over a decade, RESCAR-AOC has been working to ensure that agricultural extension is tailored to demand and contributes to development in West and Central Africa (AOC). Our ambition is clear: to build an effective, inclusive, and resilient regional agricultural extension system—one capable of withstanding the climate, security, and economic crises shaking our region.

This quarterly newsletter is one of the flagship achievements of RESCAR-AOC's Three-Year Action Plan (2026–2028) as part of the DésIRA+AO Project, funded by the European Union. DésIRA+AO aims to support family farms in an agroecological transition that combines economic performance, food security, and climate resilience. This newsletter serves as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences at the regional level.

This first issue lays the groundwork for this ambition. It examines the governance of our advisory systems: how can national forums (FONSCAR in Burkina Faso, NIFAAS in Nigeria, FOCARCI in Côte d'Ivoire, and their counterparts throughout the region) become true drivers of transformation?

This newsletter is intended for you, the stakeholders in agricultural extension in the AOC: field extension workers; leaders of national forums; researchers; members of National Agricultural Research Services (SNRA); policymakers; ministries of agriculture; and representatives of farmers' organizations. It belongs to you. It needs your contributions, your experiences, and your discussions.

In these uncertain times, shared knowledge is a powerful tool. This newsletter serves as its vehicle. Welcome to Issue No. 001.

Ms. Gifty NARH / GUIELLA | Chair of the RESCAR-AOC Board of Directors

Ouagadougou, September 2026



THEMATIC ANALYSIS *Priorities of the Agricultural Council: What priorities should the AOC Agricultural Council set in the face of global crises?*

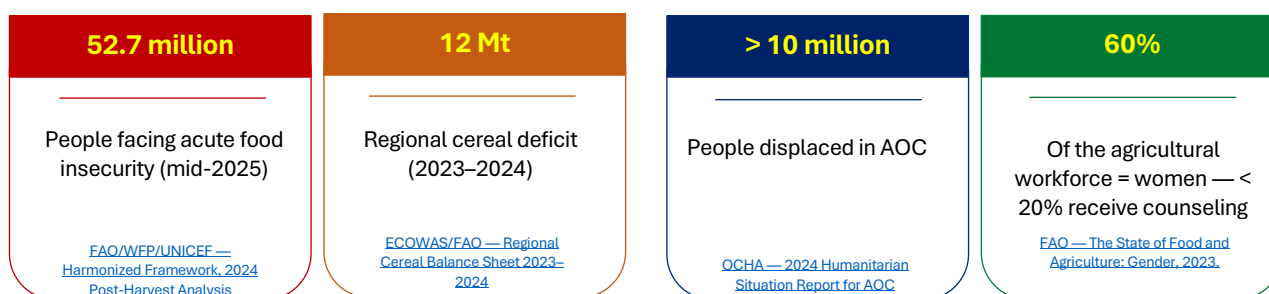
2.1 Crises That Hit Hard: Why 2026 Is a Game-Changer

In 2026, farmers in West and Central Africa are producing under increasingly difficult conditions: the effects of climate change, rising costs of production inputs, and so on. In the central Sahel, millions of families have fled their lands due to violence. Agricultural extension services have an important role to play in supporting these displaced people as they attempt to rebuild their lives far from their homelands. However, the delivery of agricultural extension services

appears ill-suited to the situation (limited number of agricultural extension agents, difficult access to certain areas, low sensitivity of agricultural extension services to conflict situations, etc.).

It is in this context that RESCAR-AOC, through this monitoring bulletin, raises the question of the priorities of agricultural extension in the face of global crises.

Food Insecurity in AOCs _ Key Figures 2024–2025



The regional food crisis has reached historic highs. According to the Harmonized Framework as of late 2024, 3.4 million people are in a food emergency (IPC Phase 4), primarily concentrated in the central Sahel. This situation is exacerbated by the effects of climate change: the 2024 floods directly affected six million people in the AOC, while drought is hitting the arid areas of the Sahel particularly hard. The 2023–2024 agricultural season resulted in a grain deficit of 12 million metric tons, with per capita availability down 2 percent from the previous year.

Compounding these crises is the persistent security instability in the central Sahel. Extension workers can no longer access large swaths of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and the Lake Chad basin. “Advisory deserts” are forming precisely where farming communities are most vulnerable. Finally, the dramatic rise in prices of imported inputs—chemical fertilizers and improved seeds—since 2022 has undermined the economic models of smallholder farmers, making it urgent to adapt advisory approaches toward greater self-reliance and agroecology.

2.2 What does recent literature say about the priorities of agricultural extension in AOCs?

Knowledge production on agricultural extension in AOCs accelerated significantly between 2022 and 2025, driven primarily by the ACOTAF project (CIRAD/IRAM/Inter-Réseaux/RESCAR-AOC) and the FSRP/PRSA programs. This research reveals a consensus around five interdependent strategic priorities.

The first priority is the agroecological transition, which is emerging as the most relevant response to multidimensional crises. The 2023 [ACOTAF policy brief](#) notes that increasing efforts are underway to promote agroecology as an alternative to Green Revolution approaches, but that results remain fragile and scaling up is still rare. Extension systems lack the tools and

training needed to effectively support these transitions. Nevertheless, several regional programs have embarked on this transformation between 2022 and 2025: the SustainSahel project (World Bank/CORAF, 2022–2026), which supports the dissemination of resilient agroecological practices in six Sahelian countries; the RADiUS project (CORAF/EU, 5 million euros, 2024–2028), dedicated to agroecology in five countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal); and the “agroecological advisory” components of the FSRP/PRSA in eight countries. These initiatives confirm that agroecological extension requires participatory methods, trained extension agents, and a strong local presence.

The second priority is the digitization of advisory services: the FSRP/PRSA (Food System Resilience Program), implemented in eight West African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Chad), places digital advisory services at the heart of its strategy. The FSRP-3 phase, approved for Senegal with \$200 million in January 2024, is the most recent component of this effort. The mapping exercise conducted by CORAF and RESCAR-AOC identified innovative methods and tools in 13 countries, confirming considerable potential but also persistent inequalities in access.

The **third priority** is institutional strengthening of advisory systems. Without a stable institutional framework—functional national forums, a national advisory policy, and dedicated public funding—innovations cannot scale up. The AFAAS assessment (2024) shows that countries with an active national forum have, on average, 40% greater coverage of advisory services compared to countries without institutional coordination.

The **fourth priority** is adapting to climate change through advisory services that integrate water management, adapted seeds, and early warnings. The IPCC ([Synthesis Report, 2023](#)) states that temperatures in the Sahel are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average. Agricultural advice that does not take climate change into account is now incomplete and potentially dangerous for family farms.

The **fifth priority** is the inclusion of women and youth. The FAO ([SOFA 2023](#)) estimates that equal access for women to agricultural resources, including advisory services, would increase their yields by 20 to 30 percent, reducing the number of people suffering from hunger by 100 to 150 million worldwide. Despite this finding, women account for only 18 to 25 percent of agricultural advisory service beneficiaries (SDG indicator 5.a.2) a priority that concerns both equity and agricultural efficiency.

2.3 RESCAR-AOC's Strategic Directions for Agricultural Extension Reform

Based on the current challenges and priorities of agricultural extension in AOC, RESCAR-AOC has grounded its agricultural extension reform strategy on four major strategic directions that are complementary and consistent with the regional priorities of ECOWAS (ECOWAP) and the CAADP.

Guideline 1 - Agricultural Extension Capable of Addressing Crises

The crises facing the region require a fundamental overhaul of advisory approaches. Current systems, designed for stable contexts, are no longer adequate. RESCAR-AOC advocates for a dynamic agricultural advisory system, capable of operating in conflict zones through the use of ICT and AI, systematically integrating climate and nutritional dimensions,

and linked to regional early warning mechanisms such as the [AGRHYMET/CCR-AOS monitoring center](#), which recently became operational for 17 countries in the Sahel and West Africa.

Priority 2 - National forums as the institutional backbone of agricultural advisory services at the national level

National forums which are multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, bringing together all stakeholders in agricultural extension services have an important role to play in driving agricultural extension reform. They provide the ideal framework for effective coordination among agricultural extension actors, as well as for concerted planning and implementation in

the delivery of agricultural extension services within countries. As part of the implementation of the DésIRA+AO project's activities, RESCAR-AOC has planned actions related to revitalizing certain forums and creating new ones. These actions will be carried out based on [the strategy for establishing and revitalizing national forums](#) that RESCAR-AOC co-developed with CIRAD and ECOWAS currently being finalized which will serve as a regional framework for the creation or revitalization of national forums.

Priority 3 - Inclusive Advisory Services for Women and Youth

Women make up the majority of the agricultural workforce in AOCs but remain overwhelmingly excluded from advisory services. The FSRP program, for example, targets 40% women among its beneficiaries but reached only 35% in

2024. The FAO measures this gap using SDG indicator 5.a.2 (proportion of women among beneficiaries of extension services), which has remained stagnant between 18 and 25 percent in most AOC countries (SOFA 2023). A structurally inclusive advisory system would not only make it possible to meet these targets but also to exceed them provided that mechanisms specifically designed for and with women are implemented.

Guideline 4 - Sustainable Funding, Less Dependent on Projects

Reliance on time-limited project funding structurally weakens agroecology extension systems. The ACOTAF project's Policy Brief addresses this shortcoming.

[Policy Brief: Agroecology Advisory Services in West Africa](#)

CROSS-PERSPECTIVE: National Agricultural Advisory Forums: Knowledge, Importance, and Current Status in AOC

3.1 What Is a National Agricultural Advisory Forum?

According to the definition adopted by RESCAR-AOC, **a National Agricultural Advisory Forum is a national consultation platform bringing together stakeholders from all sectors involved in agricultural advisory services, designed to promote the sharing of experiences, the creation of synergies among stakeholders, and the pooling of resources, in order to better support producers in the field according to their diverse needs** (Inter-réseaux, 2019b).

The forum pursues about ten complementary objectives, including ensuring access to agricultural advisory services (SCA) at the “last mile,” supporting the government in setting strategic direction and regulating the sector, strengthening coordination among stakeholders, improving the quality and professionalization of services, and encouraging innovation and the digitization of advisory services. In practical terms, its role is divided into four areas:

supporting producers in transitioning to modern and sustainable agricultural systems; developing and guiding ACS by defining strategic directions; coordinating sector stakeholders; and conducting evidence-based advocacy.

3.2 Why are national forums essential?

Agriculture employs nearly 60% of the working population in West and Central Africa and accounts for nearly 35% of regional GDP; it provides approximately 80% of the food needs for nearly 300 million people in the West African region (ECA, 2012). In this context, agricultural extension remains a key driver, but its provision remains insufficient in both quantity and quality.

The RESCAR-AOC evaluation report (April 2026) emphasizes that, given the diversity of stakeholders, the government alone can no longer ensure the coordination and oversight of advisory services. The national forum thus emerges as a complementary mechanism that accelerates innovation and improves decision-making through its close ties to on-the-ground stakeholders, enables the prioritization and

resolution of urgent issues, and serves as a strategic ally to the government in structuring the sector.

The success of a forum depends on several key factors identified by the study: leadership provided by “champions” capable of mobilizing stakeholders and resources; ownership of the forum by its members; a sustainable funding mechanism; transparent and inclusive governance; and effective communication, including with other countries.

Globally, there are more than 100 such forums, including more than 30 in Africa (RESCAR-AOC, 2024b). In West and Central Africa, these national forums are affiliated with RESCAR-AOC, which is itself affiliated with AFAAS at the continental level and with GFRAS at the global level.

3.3 Current Situation in West and Central Africa

The RESCAR-AOC knowledge-sharing study was based on a survey of thirteen key informants—seven agricultural advisory experts and six chairs of national forums in eight countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The study notes that the forums in Benin and Nigeria enjoy strong institutional anchoring, with collaboration with their respective Ministries of Agriculture reinforcing their legitimacy and capacity for action. Other forums face greater difficulties in establishing sustainable collaboration with public institutions. A notable point highlighted by the authors is that even forums with strong institutional foundations face the same operational challenges as the others suggesting that the quality of leadership, clarity of roles, and the ability to mobilize key stakeholders matter more than institutional status alone.

In Benin, the forum is involved in evaluating and developing national agricultural extension strategies and has introduced new methods, including market access extension, integrated

agricultural extension, and the TSG (Tem Sesiabun Gorado) model. In Burkina Faso, the forum has contributed to the development of the national guide on agricultural extension and advisory methods and tools, to the scaling up of agribusiness approaches such as RuralInvest, Agricultural Business Clusters, 2SCALE, and VBA, and maintains a database of the country’s agricultural extension workers and advisors. In Nigeria, the forum organized the 6th edition of African Agricultural Extension Week in 2023 and participated in the 2025 edition in Malawi; drafted the first national agricultural extension policy; facilitated policy dialogue on climate-smart agriculture; and built the capacity of stakeholders in information and communication technologies. In Côte d’Ivoire, the forum established innovation platforms with significant socioeconomic impacts for the relevant sectors.

The study groups the difficulties encountered into five categories: institutional and governance challenges (low stakeholder engagement, insufficient political commitment); financial challenges (lack of a sustainable business model, heavy reliance on project funding); challenges in mobilizing stakeholders (difficulty in quickly demonstrating the concrete benefits of the forum); communication and visibility challenges; and structural challenges specific to the agricultural sector, notably the lack of extension services in certain areas due to security concerns.

3.4 Recommendations for Strengthening National AOC Forums

Based on the findings of the study, RESCAR-AOC makes recommendations at three levels. For forums already in operation, the focus is on developing networking among stakeholders, strengthening institutional partnerships with ministries of agriculture and research institutions, decentralizing activities through regional forums, and diversifying funding sources (membership dues, partnerships).

For underperforming forums in need of revitalization, the study recommends identifying and engaging key stakeholders at the national and regional levels, consolidating the legal

framework (formalization, permanent secretariat), developing a strategic plan covering at least five years, and strengthening advocacy and communication.

For the establishment of new forums, RESCAR-AOC draws on its 2024 strategic document and

recommends first conducting an in-depth assessment of the existing agricultural advisory system, prioritizing key and visible actions from the outset, promoting broad and inclusive participation, and decentralizing the forum's activities from the very beginning.

Learn more: [Access the report summarizing the experiences of national agricultural advisory forums in West and Central Africa](#)

NEWS AND REGIONAL CALENDAR *What's Happened · What's Coming Up in AOC*

4.1 News

RESCAR-AOC Begins Revitalizing National Forums in Five West African Countries

Togo, Niger, The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso: The network is embarking on a new phase of its national expansion as part of the DéSIRA+AO project

The Network of Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services in West and Central Africa (RESCAR-AOC) is taking a new step toward strengthening its national presence. As part of the DéSIRA+AO project, the network is now supporting the creation and revitalization of national agricultural advisory forums in five countries: Togo, Niger, The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso.

The national forums are member organizations of RESCAR-AOC. They are multi-stakeholder platforms that promote the sharing of experiences, the creation of synergies among agricultural extension stakeholders, and the pooling of resources, all for the benefit of producers on the ground. Some of these forums are now well established, others still need to be consolidated, and a few have yet to be created hence the importance of the support provided by RESCAR-AOC through DéSIRA+AO.

This initiative is part of the network's strategic focus on institutional strengthening: beyond the geographical expansion of RESCAR-AOC into new countries particularly English- and

Portuguese-speaking ones the goal is to consolidate the network's membership so that these platforms can establish themselves as leading agricultural advisory actors in their respective countries and as key partners for promoting agroecology.

Initial activities with the platforms in the five countries have already begun, through online meetings organized with national stakeholders. These exchanges have allowed to lay the groundwork for future work with each forum.

The next step will focus on **capacity-building workshops** organized at the national level. These workshops will provide an opportunity to assess how each platform operates, identify specific needs, and define action plans to strengthen their participatory, inclusive, and sustainable nature.

Ultimately, these revitalized forums will become active platforms for exchange, particularly through the establishment of national technical groups dedicated to providing advice on agroecology.

This initiative is being implemented as part of the DéSIRA+AO project, which aims to support family farms in a transition that balances economic performance, food security, resilience, and environmental conservation.

Launch of the AgriPath Toolkit for Digital Agricultural Advisory Services

The AgriPath project, carried out in collaboration with the Grameen Foundation and its partners, has just launched its toolkit dedicated to digital agricultural advisory services (SCAN). This platform translates years of research and field experience into concrete recommendations for governments, extension and advisory service providers, development organizations, researchers, technology developers, and private-sector actors committed to strengthening digital agricultural advisory services.

Rather than simply a directory of publications, AgriPath SCAN offers an interconnected set of practical tools: reference frameworks, checklists, implementation guides, decision-support resources, and case studies. The navigation has been designed to adapt to individual needs, whether you are designing a new digital advisory program, strengthening an existing service, or exploring evidence-based approaches to digital extension.

The toolkit covers a wide range of topics: digital service design, selecting delivery channels, gender-sensitive approaches, strengthening

extension agent networks, behavioral science to support adoption, financial sustainability, large-scale deployment, and monitoring and learning. Together, these resources support organizations at every stage of a digital agricultural advisory service's lifecycle.

As a consortium partner, GFRAS actively contributed to the development of the toolkit and led the design of the module on **public-private partnerships (PPPs) in digital agricultural advisory services**.

To reach as many practitioners as possible, the AgriPath SCAN toolkit is available in English, French, and Spanish.

This launch marks a significant step toward evidence-based digital agricultural advisory services centered on farmers' needs. By bringing together practical advice, proven approaches, and lessons learned from the AgriPath project, this toolkit empowers practitioners to strengthen their digital advisory systems and enhance their impact on farming communities. Source: GFRAS, July 2026 [AgriPath](#)

4.2 Regional Agenda

Date	Location	Event	Organizer
Sept. 15–18, 2026	Accra, Ghana	ACA Annual Cashew Conference & Expo — cashew industry, processing, regional integration	African Cashew Alliance / TCDA / MoFA
Sept. 24–25, 2026	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	1st edition of the West African Regional Water Forum (FREAO)	ECOWAS / UEMOA / CILSS
Sept. 28–29, 2026	Abeokuta, Nigeria	AGRECOFARM Project Closing Conference — “Advancing Agroecology Education: Future Opportunities for Africa”	AGRECOFARM / FUNAAB (co-funded by the EU)
Oct. 8–10, 2026	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	West Africa Agrofood / Côte d'Ivoire Food Expo — agriculture, processing, packaging	Fairtrade Trade Show
Oct. 12–14, 2026	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	Africa Crop Forum 2026 — Climate-Resilient Cropping Systems	WAVE Research / Crop Science Centre / Cambridge Africa
Oct. 19–23, 2026	Freetown, Sierra Leone	MITA 2026 — Market for Agricultural Innovations and Technologies: Animal Production and Integrated Agriculture–Livestock–Aquaculture Systems	CORAF
Sept. 16–Dec. 9	Zoom	AERAS Global Webinar Series: The Agroecological Transition Through Extension	GFRAS



5.1 An Alarming Regional Reality: Women Are the Primary Producers but the Last to Receive Advice

Women account for more than half of the agricultural workforce in many countries in West and Central Africa and produce a large share of the food crops that supply local markets. Yet they receive a significantly smaller share of the agricultural advisory services available in the region. This massive disparity is no accident: it stems from deep-rooted, mutually reinforcing structural constraints.

The FAO report on the situation of women in agri-food systems (2023) documents that inequalities in access to agricultural resources

including extension services result in a 24% productivity gap between women and men farmers, for farms of equal size, and that these disparities have narrowed very little over the past decade despite stated political commitments. Gender-based discriminatory norms, which restrict women's mobility and their access to extension services and information, constitute persistent structural barriers.

Source: FAO (2023). *The Situation of Women in Agri-Food Systems*. Rome: FAO. openknowledge.fao.org

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES IN AOC

1. Limited mobility: Social norms restrict women's ability to travel to attend advisory sessions or visit markets where advisors operate.
2. Limited access to land: Without land titles, women lack access to many support services related to land ownership or agricultural investment.
3. Insufficient female extension workers: In many AOC countries, fewer than 25% of extension workers are women, making extension services culturally difficult to access.
4. Domestic workload: Women juggle agricultural work and unpaid domestic labor, leaving little time for training sessions and advisory meetings.
5. Digital divide: Rural women are less likely to own cell phones and are less familiar with digital advisory platforms.
6. Limited access to credit: Rural women face structural barriers to accessing agricultural financing—lack of land titles to serve as collateral, exclusion from traditional credit cooperatives, and forms that are not adapted to their literacy levels. These constraints limit their ability to finance agroecological transitions. (Source: FAO, 2023; World Bank, 2014)



The ACOTAF project (2022–2025), implemented by the CIRAD/IRAM/Inter-Réseaux/RESCAR-AOC consortium with funding from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), provides the most recent and comprehensive analytical framework for understanding the role of women in agroecological advisory services in AOCs. Through a specific thematic study on gender and agroecological transitions, ACOTAF conducted diagnostic research in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Niger.

The study conducted by IRAM and RECA in Niger ([“Women, Gender Relations, and Agroecology in Niger,”](#) January 2024) illustrates the regional challenges: women are both central actors in agroecological transitions and victims of the inadequacy of existing advisory services. They remain structurally underserved by current

systems, which do not sufficiently account for their specific constraints regarding mobility, time, and access to resources.

[The project’s transnational summary](#) (Rigourd & Djamén, November 2022) identifies several strategies to better integrate women into agroecological extension services: adapting content to women’s practices (soil conservation, vegetable gardening, small-scale livestock farming), adjusting the schedules and locations of extension services, diversifying learning formats, and training more female extension workers capable of reaching women producers where they are.

Sources: IRAM/RECA (2024), *ACOTAF Niger thematic study*, [reca-niger.org](#) · Rigourd C. & Djamén P. (2022), *ACOTAF transnational synthesis*, [rescar.org](#)

5.3 Initiative 2 - The Association La Saisonnière (Burkina Faso): Women, Certified Agroecology, and Peer Counseling

Founded as a cooperative in 2003 in Ouagadougou by Sophie Sedgho, a retired natural sciences teacher, [the Association La Saisonnière](#) has become one of the regional leaders in women-led agroecological agriculture. Today, the association coordinates three agroecological sites certified as organic under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and leads a network of seven organizations engaged in agroecology in the peri-urban areas of Ouagadougou. Sophie Sedgho is also vice president of the National Council for Organic Agriculture of Burkina Faso (CNABio).

La Saisonnière’s model is based on the principle of peer-to-peer mentoring: the most experienced women farmers pass on their

agroecological knowledge to new members, with occasional technical support from trained advisors. This horizontal approach overcomes several structural barriers: it takes place in local languages, at the production sites (eliminating the need for travel), and at times that accommodate the women’s schedules. SPG certification guarantees the quality of production while providing economic recognition for the women’s agroecological work.

Location: Ouagadougou and surrounding areas, Burkina Faso | Scope: 7 member organizations, 3 certified sites.

Contact: saisonniere@gmail.com · CNABio Burkina Faso

5.4 Initiative 3 - Feminist Climate Action in West Africa Project (ACF-AO, Côte d'Ivoire)

[The “Feminist Climate Action in West Africa” \(ACF-AO\) project](#), implemented from March 2023 to June 2026 in Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Togo, and Guinea-Bissau, aims to strengthen the resilience of coastal and island communities in the face of climate change, with a particular focus on rural women and youth. Funded by Global Affairs Canada and led in Côte d'Ivoire by SUCO and INADES-Formation Secrétariat Général, the project explicitly incorporates

agroecology advisory services as a tool for building women’s capacity to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

The project trains women community leaders from local communities, who then serve as agents for disseminating agroecological practices adapted to climate change. This approach demonstrates that women are the best ambassadors for agroecological advice in

their communities, provided they themselves receive high-quality training.

Region: Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo, Guinea-Bissau | Partners: SUCO, INADES-Formation,

Inter Pares | Funding: Global Affairs Canada |
More info: inadesformation.net

5.5 Toward Truly Inclusive Agricultural Extension: Current Status and Recommendations

Despite the political commitments made over the past decade, indicators of gender mainstreaming in agricultural extension systems in AOCs remain a cause for concern. The FAO has a specific indicator: in its Gender Equality Monitoring Framework ([SOFA 2023](#)), it measures—via SDG 5.a.2—the proportion of women among the beneficiaries of extension services. In AOC, this indicator hovers between

18 and 25 percent depending on the country, far from the 40 percent target set by the FSRP and the 50 percent target advocated by AFAAS. This stagnation reflects not a lack of will but a shortage of concrete, funded, and evaluated strategies. The following recommendations are based on lessons learned from the three initiatives described in this section and on the work of the ACOTAF project.

Recommendations for Inclusive Agricultural Extension Services for Women in AOCs

- Set a binding target of 40% women among the beneficiaries of agricultural advisory services funded by national programs and projects, with rigorous monitoring mechanisms.
- Train and deploy female agricultural extension workers, prioritizing areas where they account for less than 25% of all extension workers.
- Adapt advisory formats to women's constraints: sessions in local languages, schedules compatible with domestic responsibilities, on-site sessions at production sites, etc.
- Document and disseminate models of peer-to-peer advisory services among women to encourage their replication throughout the AOC.
- Work to ensure that, by 2028, national forums have at least 30% women in their governing bodies, with a target of 40%

Technical Fact Sheet: APICHI, a Natural Biopesticide for Pest Management – Niger

This fact sheet presents APICHI, a natural biopesticide (garlic, ginger, chili pepper) for controlling crop pests. Developed in collaboration with researchers, technical services, and producers, it details the preparation, application, and safety precautions. Intended for producers and agricultural advisors.

 **Access the report:** [Download the resource](#)

National Guide to Agricultural Extension Methods and Tools – Burkina Faso

This guide serves as a methodological framework for harmonizing and professionalizing agricultural extension and advisory practices in Burkina Faso. It presents **16 methods and approaches**, detailing for each one the objectives, guiding principles, implementation steps, available tools, and limitations. It is intended for public and private agencies, NGOs, producer organizations, and research and training institutions.

 **Access the report:** [Download the resource](#)

Guide for Monitoring the Agricultural Advisory System—Benin

This guide was developed to equip Benin's DDAEPs with the tools they need to carry out their sovereign responsibilities for monitoring the quality of agricultural advisory services. It defines the principles of oversight (regulatory oversight, informed selection, support, transparency), details the roles of the stakeholders (DCAIFE, DPP, ATDA, municipal governments, service providers, beneficiaries), and describes the **three phases of oversight** (preparation, site visits, and follow-up). It also includes **operational tools**: checklists, survey forms, and report templates.

 **Access the report:** [Download the resource](#)

Use of the FAMACHA Card for Diagnosing Anemia Associated with Gastrointestinal Parasites in Small Ruminants – PRECEL Burkina Faso

This technical sheet presents the FAMACHA method, a simple and effective tool for assessing the degree of clinical anemia associated with gastrointestinal parasites in small ruminants (sheep and goats). It describes the practical steps for observing the ocular mucosa, assigning a score (1 to 5), and making decisions regarding targeted treatment. The method promotes the judicious use of antiparasitic drugs, reducing the risks of resistance and environmental pollution. Intended for producers, extension workers, students, and NGOs.

 **Access the report:** [Download the resource](#)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS - RESCAR-AOC MONITORING BULLETIN No. 002

The next issue of the newsletter will focus on the theme: INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION.
Sub-themes: ICTs and business models for sustainable digital advisory services · Youth and rural entrepreneurship · Capitalizing on technical and organizational innovations.

We are seeking contributions on these topics: thematic analyses (800–1,200 words), field reports, highlights of innovative initiatives, and news briefs.

Submission deadline : September 30, 2026

Contact: contact@rescar.org | www.rescar.org



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