

# **TECHNICAL SUMMARY REPORT**

## **"DISSEMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUT PACKAGES IN PR-PICA COUNTRIES**

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**Félix SAWADOGO**

Executive Secretary of PR-PICA

### **PR-PICA**

Head Office: Porte n°64, Rue 9. 50 Zone Résidentielle A, 01 BP : 1234 Bobo-Dioulasso 01, BURKINA FASO

Tel/Fax: (226) 70 07 73 51

BOA account n° 020010 02110430009 01 Bobo-Dioulasso ; IFU : 00023705W

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIC:	Interprofessional Cotton Association
AICB:	Association Interprofessionnelle du Coton du Burkina Faso
WTDC:	Malian Company for the Development of Textiles
ECOWAS :	Economic Community of West African States
NARC:	National Center for Agronomic Research
CRA-CF	Agricultural Research Center - Cotton and Fiber
CRRA:	Regional Center for Agronomic Research
CORAF:	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
COTONTCHAD	Société cotonnière du Tchad new company
:	Stimulating Growth through Regional Agricultural Input Systems
EnGRAIS :	Institute of Rural Economy
IER:	International Center for Fertilizer Development
IFDC:	Institute of Environment and Agronomic Research
INERA:	National Institute of Agricultural Research of Benin
INRAB:	Interprofessional Agricultural Association of the Cotton Sector of Côte D'Ivoire
INTERCOTON:	Cotton Research Institute
IRC:	Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research
ISRA:	New Cotton Company of Togo
NSCT:	Agricultural Input Package
PIA:	Regional Program for Integrated Cotton Production in Africa
PR-PICA:	Regional Project on Prevention and Management of Pyrethroid Resistance in <i>Helicoverpa armigera</i> in West Africa
PR-PRAO:	Société Cotonnière du Gourma Société de Développement du Coton
SOCOMA:	Company of Development and Textile Fibers
SODECOTON :	Société Burkinabé des Fibres Textiles
SODEFITEX :	West African Economic and Monetary Union
SOFITEX :	National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina Faso
UEMOA :	
UNPCB:	

## INTRODUCTION

The Regional Program for Integrated Cotton Production in Africa (PR-PICA) is an association of eight (08) cotton producing countries in West and Central Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Chad and Togo).

Within the framework of activities to optimize cotton production in Africa, PR-PICA and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) signed a grant agreement N° EnG.001-22 at the end of March 2022, for the dissemination of Agricultural Input Packages (AIPs) in the Program's member countries, during the 2022/2023 season. This partnership program with IFDC, made possible by funding from USAID through its West Africa Mission (USAID/WA), will allow for the dissemination of new production strategies for cotton and its associated crops, through the training of cotton company advisory support agents and producers and by providing them with appropriate didactic tools. In addition, it should allow for an update of the database of the Fertilizer and Seed Recommendation Map for West Africa and Chad (FeSeRWAM) with respect to cotton.

The implementation of the project started with the training of researchers (2 per country) through a regional workshop. These researchers then trained the trainers of the cotton companies and interprofessions. Each trainer in turn trained at least 10 extension/management agents in his or her zone. These trained agents were then responsible for disseminating the AIPs to leading producers and to producers at the grassroots level.

This report summarizes these different training courses, organized in the PR-PICA countries.

### I- REGIONAL TRAINING OF RESEARCHERS IN THE DISSEMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUT PACKAGES IN PR-PICA COUNTRIES

The workshop which was held from 09 to 12 May 2022 at the PALACE Hotel in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, was attended by agricultural researchers and entomologists from 7 PR-PICA member countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, Chad and Togo). The President of the PR-PICA Steering Committee and the Executive Secretariat of the Program also took part in the workshop. This workshop was co-facilitated by Mr. Kido KOUASSI (IFDC), Dr. Jean OUEDRAOGO, Dr. Déhou DAKUO and Dr. Emmanuel Kouadio N'GORAN (regional trainers).

The objective of this regional workshop is to strengthen the capacity of researchers to take charge of the FeSeRWAM platform and the agricultural input packages (AIPs) for a wide dissemination.



*Photo 1: Participants at the Researchers' Training Workshop*

At the end of the workshop, it appears that the work went well. All the expected participants from the 7 PR-PICA countries were present at the workshop. From the results obtained from the workshop, it is noted that :

- ✓ The Agricultural Input Packages (AIPs) for cotton and associated crops are known by the participants;
- ✓ The FeSeRWAM platform is mastered by researchers from the NARS of the PR-PICA countries;
- ✓ The Cotton Input Packages of each PR-PICA member country are revised and new AIPs are proposed;
- ✓ The organization and facilitation of adult training sessions are mastered;
- ✓ Country training plans and guides are developed;
- ✓ The communication techniques are known.

**Table 1:** Number of participants per country at the regional workshop

Country	Number of Participants
<b>Trained researchers</b>	
Benin	2
Burkina Faso	4
Ivory Coast	3
Mali	2
Senegal	2
Chad	2
Togo	2
<b>Trainers</b>	
Burkina Faso	<b>2</b>
Ivory Coast	<b>1</b>
Nigeria	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

The main recommendations of this workshop were:

**✚ To the IFDC**

- Make the second tranche of funds available to PR-PICA by the end of May 2022, so as not to delay the process;
- To effectively take into account all the observations made by the participants for the improvement of the platform;
- Complete the online update of AIPs by the end of May 2022 to allow for the smooth running of in-country training.

**✚ To PR-PICA**

Send a letter to the interprofessions/cotton companies in the countries to inform them and facilitate cascade training.

**✚ To the trainers**

To ensure in synergy with the trainers of the cotton companies, the follow-up and the evaluation of the trainings in cascade to guarantee the achievement of the objectives.

## II- TRAINING OF TRAINERS OF COTTON COMPANIES

The training of trainers of the cotton companies was done in the project countries by the Researchers who were trained at the regional workshop.

The objective of this training is to strengthen the capacity of the trainers of the cotton companies to take charge of the FeSeRWAM platform and the IAPs for a wide dissemination. This training of trainers of cotton companies took place in July and August 2022 in the countries of the Program and focused on the following points:

- ✚ Knowledge of AIPs on cotton and associated food crops;
- ✚ Knowledge and mastery of the FeSeRWAM platform;
- ✚ User training;
- ✚ Communication techniques ;
- ✚ Cascade Training Strategy;
- ✚ Training plan for agents and producers.

The table below provides an overview of the training courses conducted in each country.

**Table 2:** Training dates and number of trainers trained per **country**

Country	Date of training	Number of trainers trained	Companies concerned
<b>Benin</b>	July 13-15, 2022 in Parakou,	15	AIC, IRC, SODECO
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	July 21-22, 2022 in Bobo-Dioulasso	11	SOFITEX, SOCOMA, FASO COTTON
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	July 13-15, 2022 in Korhogo	08	CIDT, IVOIRE COTTON, COIC and GLOBAL COTTON and SECO)
<b>Mali</b>	July 4-6, 2022 in Sotuba	18	CMDT subsidiaries: South, Centre, North-East and North-West and OHVN)
<b>Senegal</b>	1-2 July 2022 in Tambacounda	16	SODEFITEX and FNPC
<b>Chad</b>	August 5-6, 2022 in Moundou	18	ANADER, ITRAD, UNPCT and CONTONCHAD SN
<b>Togo</b>	August 17-19, 2022 in Sokode	19	NSCT
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>105</b>	

**NB:** details of the training courses and attendance lists are recorded in the attached country reports.

Out of a planned number of 70 cotton company trainers to be trained, a total of 105 were trained, i.e. a 150% completion rate.



*Photo 2: Training of trainers in Benin*



*Photo 3: Training of trainers in Burkina Faso*



*Photo 4: Training of trainers in Côte d'Ivoire*



*Photo 5: Training of trainers in Mali*



*Photo 6: Training of trainers in Senegal*



*Photo 7: Training of trainers in Chad*



*Photo 8: Training of trainers in Togo*

The main recommendations from these trainings are as follows:

- Provide sufficient training manuals for all Farm Advisors;
- Improve the technical content of AIPs;
- Introduce the PIAs of all the cultures of the member countries;

- Provide a link to locate the different sites/stores where the seeds of improved varieties, appropriate fertilizers, etc. are sold;
- To make available, through links, essential information on the regulations for the importation of agricultural inputs in the ECOWAS and CILSS space;
- Update the PIAs to take into account new data and improve the level of English-French translation
- Find ways to support the continuation of cascade training;
- Make the FeSeRWAM platform flexible to allow producers to improve the IAPs according to their agro-ecological zones;
- To organize the seed producers and to allow each producer to have his own quality seed;
- On the issue of inaccessibility of the FeSeRWAM platform to some producers, it was suggested to involve a contact (literate, parent, relative, etc.) who is familiar with the internet tool and can help the producer access it.

### III- TRAINING OF AGRICULTURAL ADVISORS OF COTTON COMPANIES

This training of agricultural advisors follows the national training workshop for cotton company trainers on the dissemination of Agricultural Input Packages (AIPs).

Since agricultural advisors are in direct contact with producers, training for these agents was provided by trainers from the cotton companies.

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacity of agricultural advisors of cotton companies to use the FeSeRWAM platform for a wide dissemination of agricultural input packages (AIPs) to producers

The table below provides an update on the number of trained agricultural advisors in the PR-PICA countries.

**Table 2:** Number of trained agricultural advisors by country

Country	Training period	Number of trained agricultural advisors	Companies concerned	Agents concerned
<b>Benin</b>	August 2022	385	AIC, IRC, SODECO	Agricultural Advisors (CA)
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	August 1-5, 2022	303	SOFITEX, SOCOMA, FASO COTTON	- Cotton Correspondents (CC); - Cotton Technical Agents (CTA) - Specialized Coton Technical Agents (ATCS)
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	August 2022	696	CIDT, IVOIRE COTTON, COIC and GLOBAL COTTON and SECO)	- Zone Chief (CZ); - Farmer Field Observer (FFO); - Agricultural Consultant (CA)
<b>Mali</b>	July-August 2022	706	CMDT subsidiaries: South, Centre,	- Branch executives ; - Agricultural Production Zone Managers (APZM);

			North-East and North-West and OHVN)	- Seed Production Zone Managers (SPZM).
<b>Senegal</b>	July 18-23, 2022	137	SODEFITEX and FNPC	- Area Managers (AM); - Stewardship, Statistics and Credit Officers (SSCO); - Technical sales advisors (CTC, extension agents) ; - Leaders of the FNPC sector union
<b>Chad</b>	August-September 2022	250	ANADER, UNPCT and CONTONCHAD SN	- Regional managers ; - Supervisors - Cotton field agents ; - ANADER's Agricultural Advisors
<b>Togo</b>	August 20-31, 2022	1 901	NSCT, FNGPC	- Cotton Technical Agents (CTA); - Prefectural Cotton Action Coordinators (CPAC) ; - Relay and Technical Support Teams (ERAT); - Relay and Technical Support Agent (ARAT).
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4 378</b>		

The trainings went well without major difficulties in all countries.

**Out of a planned number of 700 agricultural advisors, a total of 4,378 were trained, for a completion rate of 624%.**

The main concern raised by agricultural advisors in most countries, is the very noticeable absence of PIAs for many of the countries' varieties, which could be a limitation for producers.

It was also suggested that a link be provided for the identification of sites and/or stores for the sale of improved variety seeds and appropriate fertilizers.

#### IV- PRODUCER TRAINING

In each country, the training of producers was carried out by the agricultural advisors between August and October 2022.

This training focused on the knowledge of the FeSeRWAM platform and the Agricultural Input Packages involving different speculations such as: cotton, maize, sorghum, millet, cowpea, groundnut, cassava, yam, potato, .....etc.

**Table 2:** Number of producers trained per country

Country	Training period	Number of producers concerned
<b>Benin</b>	August-September-October	<b>24 377</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	August-September-October	<b>10 200</b>
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	August-September-October	<b>17 800</b>

<b>Mali</b>	August-September-October	<b>15 611</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	August-September-October	<b>16 492</b>
<b>Chad</b>	August-September-October	<b>8 450</b>
<b>Togo</b>	August-September-October	<b>12 858</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>105 788</b>

**A total of 105,788 producers were trained in the 7 PR-PICA countries, representing a 101% completion rate.**

Training continues in-country, and could reach a maximum of producers during 2023.

## **CONCLUSION**

The dissemination of Agricultural Input Packages (AIPs) through the FeSeRWAM platform has gone well in the 7 PR-PICA countries. The initial objectives have been reached, with percentages of achievement ranging from 101% for producers to 624% for agricultural advisors.

Training, especially at the producer level, is ongoing in several countries, which could increase the number of trained producers by 2023.

Recommendations were made on the one hand to IFDC for an improvement of the platform, and on the other hand to the PR-PICA and the different countries involved, for an appropriation of this platform and of the PIAs for an increase in agricultural productivity.

**APPENDICES**: Reports and participant lists can be downloaded at the following link:

[https://ifdc.sharepoint.com/:f/s/EnGRAIS/EkiNkhipF0IBujPIETZBq2IBKQSLvEsuqqqi\\_mC5Fk8cw?e=SJBaL5](https://ifdc.sharepoint.com/:f/s/EnGRAIS/EkiNkhipF0IBujPIETZBq2IBKQSLvEsuqqqi_mC5Fk8cw?e=SJBaL5)