

Navigation Aérienne et de Météorologie). However, the training courses are not meant for all categories of staff.

In order to improve and strengthen training activities within the sub-region, existing centres and universities in the sub-region must be strengthened to meet identified requirements. Further training in developed countries will be provided to instructors at the sub-regional centres.

The scheduled activities will help improve agricultural production, ensure more effective monitoring of drought and desertification and strengthen national capability to implement programmes.

The duration of the project which is expected to cost US\$ 12,505,440 is four-years.

REGULATION C/REG. 9/7/96 ON THE INTEGRATED INFORMATION PROGRAMME FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 4/5/82 on the adoption of the ECOWAS regional agricultural development strategy;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC. 1/6/86 on the adoption of the short and medium term programmes of action for the development of agricultural and natural resources;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC. 11/12/90 on the adoption of an agricultural research cooperation programme in the sub-region;

CONSIDERING the importance of agricultural information in the promotion of agricultural development;

CONSIDERING the time limitation on the availability of funds under the fourth cycle of the Lome Convention funding programme for regional development;

REALISING the failure of the Agriculture Commission to meet on two occasions to consider the programme and make appropriate recommendations to Council;

BEARING IN MIND the concern of Member States and the international organisations over protracted delays in the implementation of the programme as a result of the failure of the Commission to meet;

HAVING STUDIED the special memorandum of the Executive Secretariat presenting, inter-alia, the Integrated Information Programme for the Agricultural Development of West Africa;

ENACTS

Article 1

The attached Integrated Information Programme for the Agricultural Development of West Africa is hereby adopted.

Article 2

1. The Executive Secretariat shall take appropriate measure to implement this programme as a regional project.
2. The Executive Secretariat shall take necessary measures to ensure that the project document is presented at a donors conference as a means of securing adequate funding for implementation of the programme.

Article 3

This Regulations shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of the signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It shall also be published in the National Gazette of each Member State within the same time-frame

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 25TH DAY OF JULY, 1996**



**HON. KWAME PEPIRAH
CHAIRMAN,
FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.**

INTEGRATED INFORMATION PROGRAMME FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA

1. Introduction

The thirty-fifth Session of Council held in Abuja from 25 to 28 July, by Decision No. C/Dec. 8/7/94 adopted the Agricultural Information Strategy as the basis for the formulation of a regional information programme for the agricultural development of West Africa. The Decision followed a study conducted in 1992 to ascertain the agricultural information needs of the West Africa sub-region.

The Decision also recognised the Regional Evaluation, Planning and Monitoring Committee (CREPS), created at the request of a regional workshop held in Banjul in 1993 to review the study, as an advisory body to ECOWAS on agricultural information matters.

The regional agricultural information programme is aimed at ameliorating deficiencies existing in the information delivery system in the agricultural sector. The programme is conceived as a regional project for West Africa under the Lomé Convention. All 16 Member States as well as sub-regional organisations in West Africa are implicated.

Technical and financial support for this programme was provided by CTA. The CTA is involved in this ECOWAS project, in collaboration with national, regional and international institutions in the Member States, to promote the use of information as a vehicle for the agricultural development of the sub-region.

II. Resume of the programme

The programme objectives aim at regional integration, and seeks to ensure improved organisation and management of information for the agricultural development of the West African sub-region, based on the priority areas defined and adopted by ECOWAS and other organisations working towards regional integration.

More specifically, the objectives of the programme seek to achieve the following: