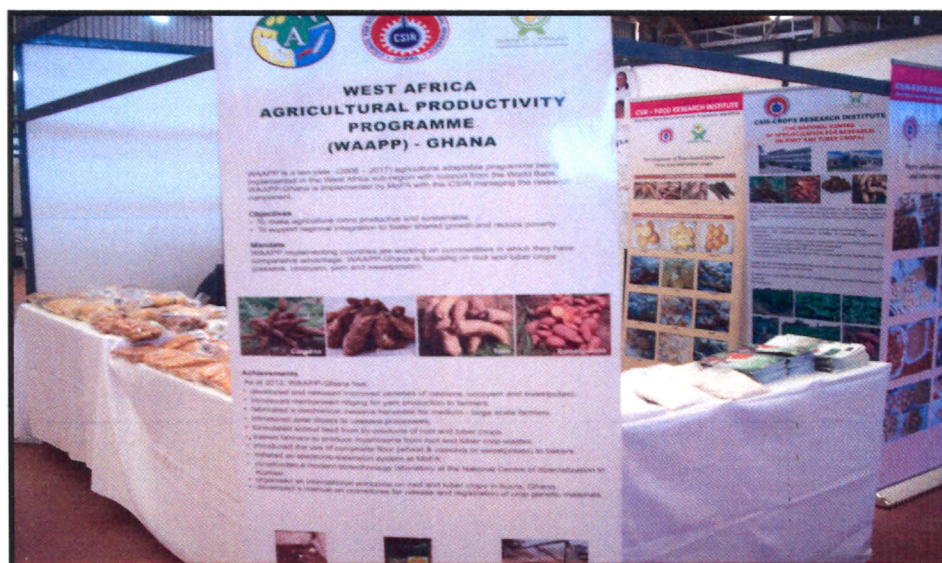


**COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE**



**REPORT ON THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF AGRIBUSINESS
HELD AT PRAIA CITY, SANTIAGO ISLAND, CAPE VERDE
ON 2ND TO 4TH MAY, 2014**



By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 PRESENTATIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS FAIR	4
3.0 EXHIBITION BY WAAPP-GHANA	6
4.0 FIELD VISIT TO THE HYDROPONIC SCHOOL AND FARM LANDS IN CAPE VERDE.....	12
5.0 LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS FAIR.....	19
6.0 ISSUES/PROBLEMS/EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED ON THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP	20
7.0 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.....	20
8.0 EVALUATION	21
9.0 CONCLUSION	21
10.0 RECOMMENDATION.....	21
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A three-member delegation from Ghana attended the 2nd Edition International Fair of Agribusiness under the team “*Promoting research and innovations in family farming*” at Praia City, Santiago Island, Cape Verde from 2nd to 4th May, 2014. The 2nd Edition International Fair of Agribusiness was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development of Cape Verde. The purpose of the fair was to stimulate promotion in innovations and the generation of technologies for inclusion in family farming. It further seeks to reposition the agriculture sector as a priority in national public policy agenda. Additionally the fair created an opportunity for organizations and companies in the agribusiness to promote their products and services. The International Agribusiness Fair was attended by hundred plus organizations and companies from Cape Verde, Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Argentina, Brazil. Some of the organizations were CORAF- Mail, CORAF-Ghana, CORAF, ECL-Brazil, Plasbene-Brazil, INIDA-Cape Verde, UNICV-Cape Verde, Mountain Top-Senegal and others. The WAAPP-Ghana delegation was Dr. Charles Tortoe and Mrs Alice Padi from CSIR-Food Research Institute and Mr Emmanuel Alorigiya from WAAPP-PCU. The International Agribusiness Fair was conducted in a cordial and good atmosphere and it strengthened organizations specially CORAF/WECARD to facilitate growth in agricultural production and products in West and Central Africa and it successfully encouraged Cape Verde to participate in regional WAAPP programme.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The West Africa Agriculture Productivity Programme WAAPP-Ghana was invited to the *2nd Edition International Fair of Agribusiness* under the team “*Promoting research and innovations in family farming*” at Praia City, Santiago Island, Cape Verde from 2nd to 4th May, 2014. The 2nd Edition International Fair of Agribusiness was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development of Cape Verde.

The United Nations (UN) declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (AIAF) in order to raise the profile of family farming and small farmers and give visibility to a sector which otherwise was neglected but is regarded as crucial in eradicating hunger and poverty, provision of food security and nutrition, improving households livelihoods, management of natural resources and protection and conservation of biodiversity resources in urban and particularly in rural areas.

Most foods consumer in the world originated from family farming. Family farming in agriculture is a sector considered to have the greatest potential for increased family revenues and poverty reduction. To achieve the desired goals, it is essential to foster innovation and the generation of technologies to promote the inclusion of family farming in value chains. It is in the light of this that the 2nd edition of the Agribusiness International Fair was organized from 2 to 4 May in Praia City, Santiago Island, Cape Verde. The purpose of the International Agribusiness Fair was to stimulate promotion in innovations and the generation of technologies for inclusion in family farming. It further seeks to reposition the agriculture sector as a priority in national public policy agenda for west and central African countries. It seeks to create an opportunity for organizations and companies in the agribusiness to promote their products and services and presents itself as a privileged space for business and networking. Additional event of the fair apart from exhibition of agricultural machinery, equipment and services to the agricultural sector, and selling products, was a space for wine tasting, cheeses, honey, jams, fruits, and other food stuffs. Besides the participation of agribusiness enterprises, individual producers, public and financial institutions, the national associations and agricultural cooperatives of

Cape Verde were present. Further the fair included presentations and discussions on agriculture, animal husbandry and other related subtopics, with the participation of stakeholders in the sector, either as participants (farmers and technicians), exhibitors or organizers (organizations, companies and institutions), which successfully complemented the core business of the event. During the three days fair there were a strong cultural entertainment with dance and traditional music and local handcraft from Cape Verde.

The International Agribusiness Fair was attended by hundred plus organizations and companies from Cape Verde, Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Argentina and Brazil. Some of the organizations were CORAF- Mail, CORAF-Ghana, CORAF, ECL-Brazil, Plasbene-Brazil, INIDA-Cape Verde, UNICV-Cape Verde, Mountain Top-Senegal and others.

The WAAPP-Ghana delegation was Dr. Charles Tortoe and Mrs. Alice Padi from CSIR-Food Research Institute and Mr. Emmanuel Alorigiya from WAAPP-PCU. The International Agribusiness Fair was conducted in a cordial and good atmosphere and it strengthened organizations specially CORAF/WECARD to facilitate growth in agricultural production and products in West and Central Africa and it successfully encouraged Cape Verde to participate in regional WAAPP programme.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS FAIR

The International Agribusiness Fair was officially opened by the Prime-Minister of Cape Verde- Excellency Jose Maria Neves assisted by the Minister of Rural Development- Dr. Eva Ortet, President of FIC- Luis Cardoso, Minister for Higher Education and Minister of Finance. The presentations at the International Agribusiness Fair included;

- Research Agenda for Agribusiness
- Presentation of the Research's Strategy
- Theme 1: Presentation of the experience of CORAF/WECARD
- Theme 2: Presentation of the experiences of countries implementing the program WAAPP
(West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program)
- Theme 3: The challenges of research and innovation at national level

- Theme 4: Family Farming in Cape Verde
- Theme 5: The use of Bio fertilizers and Bio pesticides
- Theme 6: The agricultural entrepreneurship based on technology.
- Theme 7: Conception and Management of Irrigation Systems for the benefit of the dry lands using water - Santiago Island - Cape Verde
- Promoting youth employment through the Internet: a CORAF / IDB's initiative



Figure 1. Presentation by the Prime Minister



Figure 2. A cross-section of participants during presentations

3.0 EXHIBITION BY WAAPP-GHANA

An exhibition on WAAPP-Ghana activities and achievements was mounted showcasing bakery and pastry products of cakes, doughnuts, chips, chinchin, bread, bread rolls, strips and cookies at 100, 50, 30, 20% for cassava, sweetpotato, cocoyam, yam and water yam, cowpeas, rice, maize, sorghum and millet. Flours and composite flours of these products were exhibited alongside the bakery and pastry products. A poster on the mechanical cassava harvester and pull-ups on WAAPP-Ghana achievements and bakery and pastry products were exhibited. The exhibit stand of WAAPP-Ghana became a crowd puller as people rushed in to taste all displayed products and enquire about WAAPP-Ghana. The WAAPP-Ghana exhibition stand was visited by many participants who expressed interest in the products, learned about the processing methods and arranged for possible training in their various countries. A special network was create between WAAPP-Ghana and INIDA-Cape Verde and the University of Cape Verde for further collaboration on processing technologies of all the displayed products.

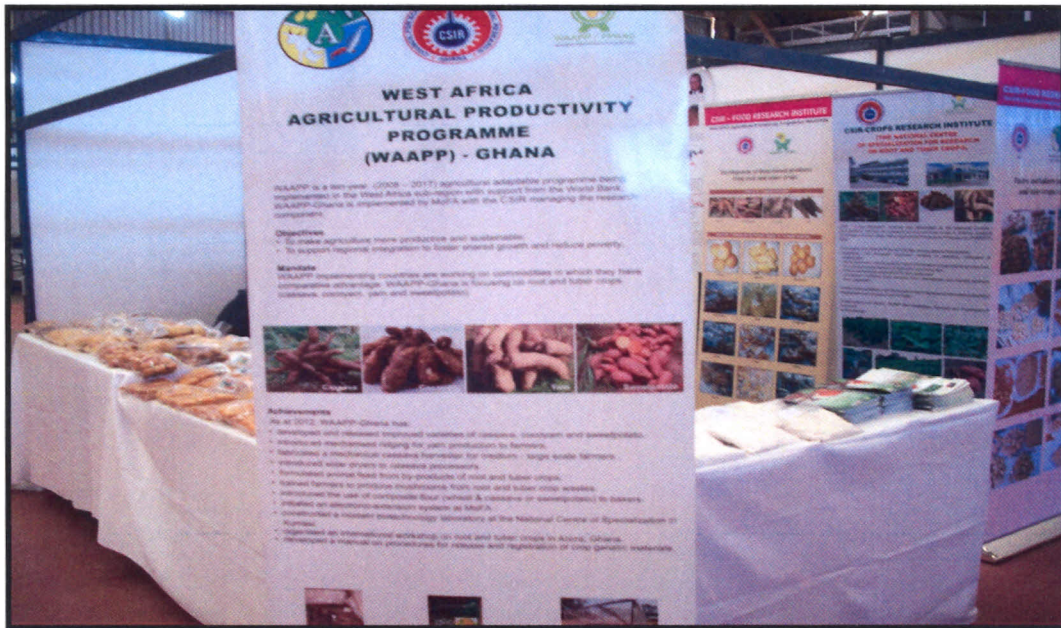


Figure 3. Exhibitions stand of WAAPP-Ghana



Figure 4. Exhibits at the WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 5. The Prime Minister at WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 6. Visitors at the WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 7. Visitors picking products at the WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 8. Visitors patronizing products at the WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 9. Visitors from all participating countries picking products at the WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 10. Visitors admiring products at the WAAPP-Ghana stand



Figure 11. Exhibition of root and tuber products from Ghana



Figure 12. WAAPP official admiring flour products at the WAAPP-Ghana stand

4.0 FIELD VISIT TO THE HYDROPONIC SCHOOL AND FARM LANDS IN CAPE VERDE

On the 3rd day of the International Agribusiness Fair, exhibitors had the privilege visit the Hydroponic school and farm lands. Limited farm lands had force Cape Verde to depend more on hydroponics for its agriculture. It had established a Hydroponic School of Achada de S. Filipe, where the state-of-art hydroponics agriculture practices were conducted for several crops such as tomato, lettuce, cabbage, mango, citrus and strawberry. The tour around the farm lands of Santiago Island was very interesting, depicting the will of its farmers and to Government to succeed. Santiago Island is the largest among ten islands that constitute Cape Verde. These farm lands are created in-between valleys and on slopes of hills, where cassava, sugarcane and several vegetables are grown. All the farm lands are irrigated by dams such as the Poilon's Dam in Santa Cruz. Due to the rocky and savannah dry lands seven dams have been built to irrigate the farm lands. The country hopes to build seventeen dams throughout the country to irrigate every single farm in the country. Farmers in Cape Verde have strong cooperatives that seek their rights.



Figure 13. Hydroponic facility computerized control station

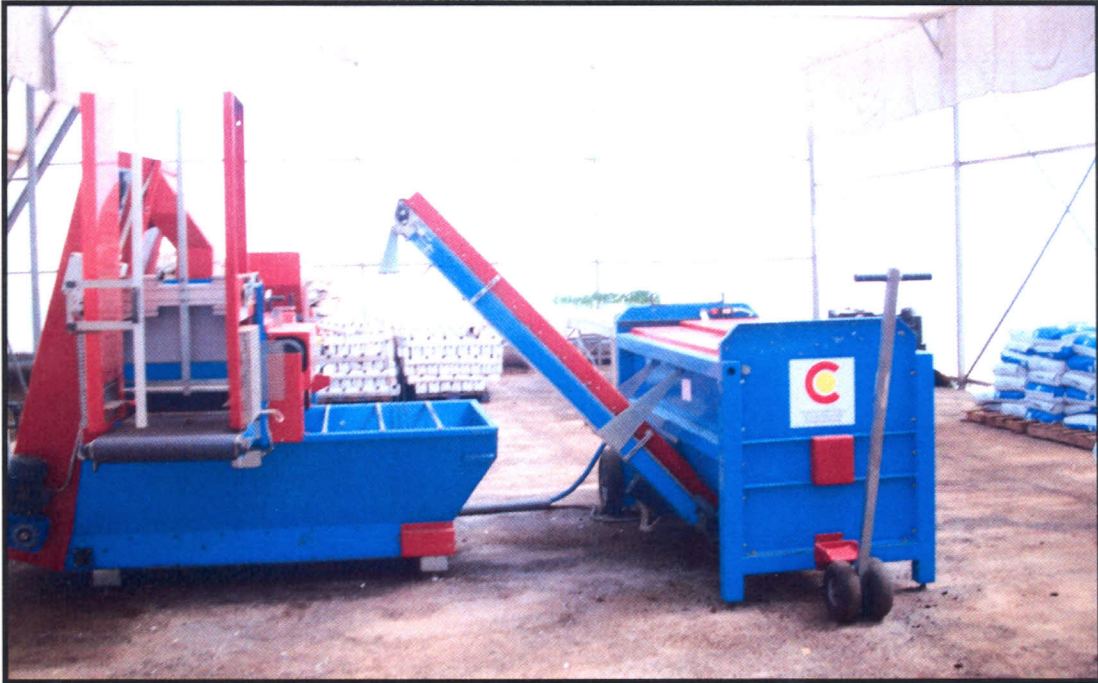


Figure 14. Soil preparation equipment



Figure 15. Prepared soil ready for planting



Figure 16. Hydroponic soil filling



Figure 17. Hydroponic lettuce



Figure 18. Hydroponic nursery of tomatoes



Figure 19. Automated watering of hydroponics nursery



Figure 20. Plant nursery within a greenhouse at the Hydroponic School



Figure 21. Plant nursery of fruits and vegetables in a greenhouse.



Figure 22. Plant nursery of palm and tree plants



Figure 23. Exhibitors harvesting strawberries



Figure 24. Irrigated strawberry field showing irrigation pipes



Figure 25. Newly constructed dam for irrigated farm fields



Figure 26. Farms within valleys

5.0 LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS FAIR

Salient lessons learnt by the WAAPP-Ghana delegation to the International Agribusiness are listed below;

- Collaborative activities between WAAPP participating countries must be improved among themselves and CORAF/WECARD. Although other WAAPP-participation countries including Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Gambia had confined their participation they were unable to attend the International Agribusiness Fair.
- Excellent collaborative linkage had been established between WAAPP-Ghana and INIDA and UNICV-Cape Verde for research, technology transfer and development, especially for improved cassava varieties and processing technologies of bakery and pastry products for cassava and sweetpotato.
- International Fairs should be encouraged among the WAAPP participating countries by CORAF/WECARD in order to showcase its country specific

developed technologies for adoption by other participation countries. CORAF/WECARD could insist on a programme from participating countries.

- The International Agribusiness Fair created an opportunity for farmers, researchers, financiers, equipment producers and all other crops value actors to meet and interact on regional bases. The CSIR-FRI Investors Forum and Exhibition is a microcosm of the International Agribusiness Fair and must be encouraged by WAAPP-Ghana to reach value chain actors for root and tuber, cereal and legume crops in Ghana.

6.0 ISSUES/PROBLEMS/EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED ON THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Participation of the fair was excellent and WAAPP-Ghana activities and achievements were presented to the public. An interesting experience encountered during the International Agriculture Fair was the use of French and Portuguese's languages. The WAAPP-Ghana delegation had to depend on interpreters often during communication.

7.0 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The WAAPP-Ghana delegation suggests the following after participating in the International Agribusiness Fair;

- Collaborative activities between WAAPP2A participating countries must be improved. This is because of the inability for the other WAAPP-2A participating country such as Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Gambia Togo and Benin, who had earlier confirmed their participation of the International Agribusiness Fair.
- It is laudable to encouraged hosting among the WAAPP participating countries, such International Agribusiness Fairs by CORAF/WECARD. Probably, CORAF/WECARD must make it a mandate for each participating country to host one International Agribusiness Fair during the project period. This will highlight more on the technologies developed for adoption by member countries.

- Researchers should also take advantage of French classes in Ghana to study French and better equip themselves for the future.

8.0 EVALUATION

The International Agribusiness Fair was conducted in a cordial and good atmosphere. All exhibitors were satisfied with the organization of the fair. The fair was well attended and visitors were satisfied with the exhibits and appreciated the excellent organization of the fair. The exhibits were excellently displayed and well patronized. The WAAPP-Ghana stand was always full of visitors who recommended the displayed product excellently.

9.0 CONCLUSION

The International Agribusiness Fair had facilitated collaboration between participating organizations and institutions. It exhibited regional cooperation for improving agribusiness within the region. The fair improved the relationship between CORAF/WECARD and participating WAAPP countries. It further gave CORAF/WECARD an excellent platform to showcase its activities and achievements and successfully convinced Cape Verde to participate in WAAPP. Further, the results of the regional workshop were to be replicated in the participating countries with support from CORAF/WECARD.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION

The WAAPP-Ghana delegation to the International Agribusiness Fair recommends the following;

- WAAPP-Ghana must support the organizational linkages and networks established by the delegation, especially between WAAPP-Ghana and INIDA and UNICV-Cape Verde.
- Probably, WAAPP-Ghana can constitute a working team in one of its project activities purposely to support the agro-food industries, especially MSMSE's in

Ghana.

- CORAF/WECARD must support organizational linkages established between WAAPP-Ghana and INIDA and UNICV-Cape Verde during the International Agribusiness Fair for collaboration in research, technology transfer and development.
- Emphases must be placed on technology transfer of improved cassava varieties and processing of bakery and pastry products of cassava and sweetpotatoes.
- CORAF/WECARD must mandate WAAPP countries to host similar International Agribusiness Fairs for new organizational collaborations in research, technology and development.
- The Ministry of Development of Cape Verde is geared to join WAAPP and must be supported by CORAF/WECARD. Further, the results of the regional workshop were to be replicated in the participating countries with support from CORAF/WECARD.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The WAAPP-Ghana delegation extends its sincerely thanks to WAAPP-Ghana especially the Project Coordination Unit for sponsorship to attend the International Agribusiness Fair.