

ECOWAS AGRICULTURE TRADE & MARKET SCORECARD (EATM-S) FOR WEST AFRICA & THE SAHEL

Over the last decade, the combined impact of multiple drivers and shocks has worsened food and nutrition insecurity across West Africa. After decades of progress, the number and share of undernourished people climbed from 36.9 million (13.8% of the West African population) in 2005 to 59.4 million (15.2%) in 2019. Estimates based on the *Cadre Harmonisé* show that approximately 23.61 million people were acutely food insecure in 2021. Compared to the five-year average from 2015 to 2020, this means a +159% increase in people with acute food insecurity. Reasons for the observed high level of food and nutrition insecurity include the rising food demand growth, stagnant crop yields, climate change, rising insecurity, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

Within this context, the World Bank launched the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), a regional flagship investment program (approx. US\$1.2 Billion) to improve food security, reduce poverty, and promote sustainable growth in West Africa. Under the framework of FSRP, the ECOWAS Commission established a performance measurement and tracking mechanism — the ECOWAS Agriculture Trade and Market Scorecard (EATM-S) for West Africa and the Sahel.

The EATM Scorecard is promoting intra-regional trade in agricultural and food products to improve the resilience of West African and Sahelian food systems through:

Data collection and benchmarking to review agri-food trade accountability mechanisms to strengthen implementation of existing policy frameworks

Improving the reporting on agri-food trade data

Strengthening South-South knowledge exchange to improve the business environment

HOW ARE WE DOING THIS?

The EATM Scorecard is a monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and strategic planning mechanism to equip the ECOWAS Commission and Member States with the tools, methodology, and digital platform to track and measure all the barriers, policy, and institutional impediments that constrain the capacity of national agricultural sectors to successfully compete in the regional market.

The EATM Scorecard approach involves five main components:

Stocktaking and reviewing of past and existing agri-food trade accountability mechanisms

Broad Stakeholder Consultation

Elaboration of the Scorecard Results Framework (RF)

Development of an Interactive Digital Platform (E-Platform)

Communications strategy for fast-tracking utilization of the Scorecard

EATM Scorecard Facts

- **Incepted in 2022** by ECOWAS to promote intra-regional trade in agricultural and food products to improve the resilience of West African and Sahelian food systems.
- **Is a key output of the World Bank FSRP**, where ECOWAS is establishing an accountability mechanism to assess implementation of policy commitments on agricultural trade and market access in the region.
- **AKADEMIYA2063 was selected as a technical partner to develop** the EATM Scorecard methodology in consultation with ECOWAS.
- **10 key regional and continental trade policies and regulations** informed the EATM Scorecard. They include: ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS); ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET); ECOWAS Customs Code; ECOWAS Program of Development of Joint Border Posts; Regulation on Harmonization of the Rules Governing Pesticides Registration in the ECOWAS Region; Regulation on Harmonization of the Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification, and Marketing of Plant Seeds and Seedlings in the ECOWAS Region; Regulation Relating to Fertilizer Quality Control in the ECOWAS Region; Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); African Union Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework; the CAADP Malabo Declaration, and other relevant frameworks.

EATM Scorecard Results and Indicators

The EATM Scorecard Results Framework is structured into three objectives at outcome, output, and input levels as follows:

Promoting cooperation and integration through regional trade of agricultural goods and inputs

Facilitating cross-border trade of agricultural goods and inputs

Improving national implementation of regional trade policies and regulations

13 Results Areas

2 results at the outcome level, 3 results at the output level, and 8 results at the input level

19 Performance Indicators are used to measure the defined results

2 indicators at the outcome level, 3 indicators at the output level, 14 indicators at the input level