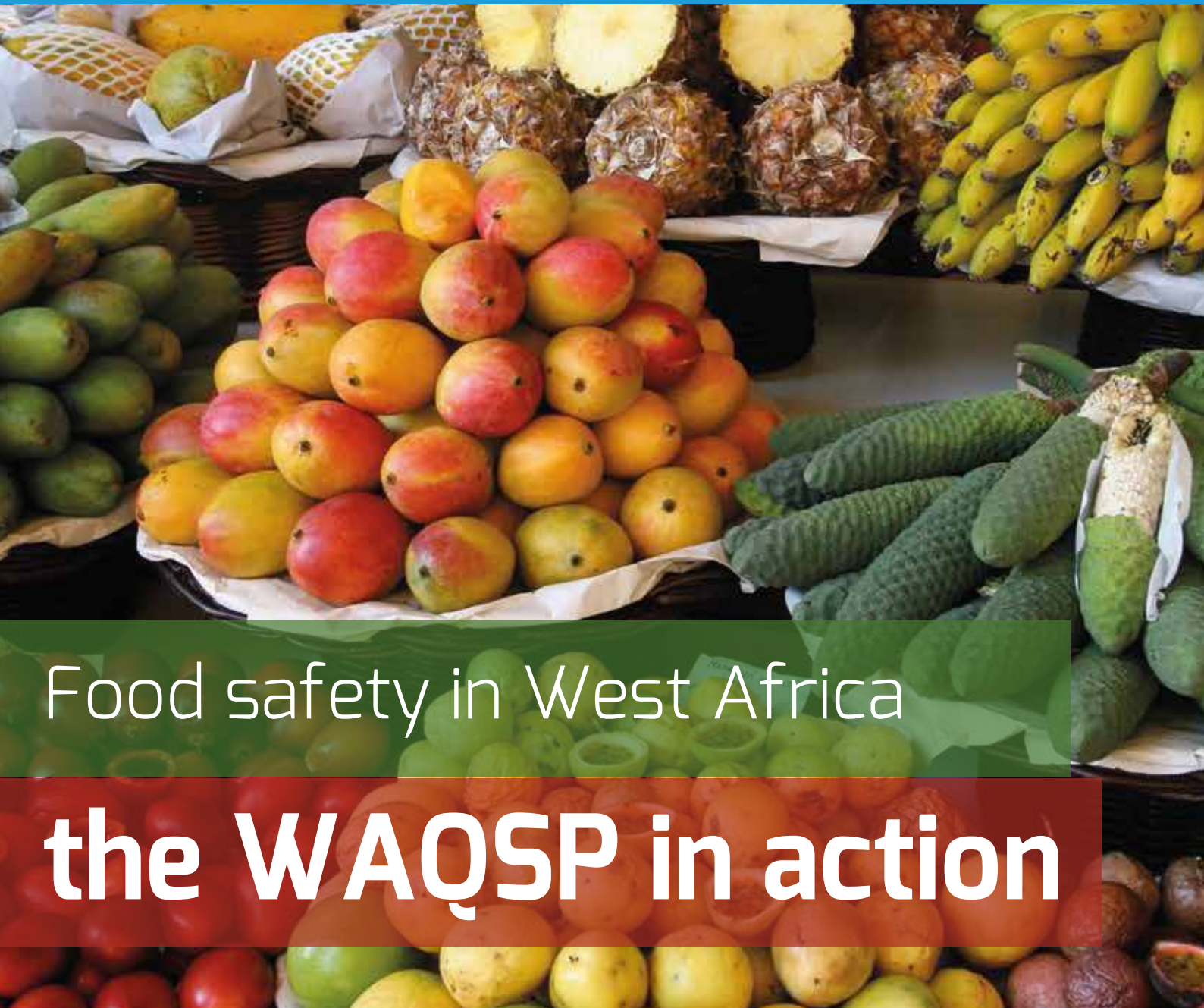




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*Newsletter n°6 - February - June 2017*

# WAQSP NEWS



Food safety in West Africa

**the WAQSP in action**

# **WAQSP NEWS**

**Published by the West Africa  
Quality System Programme**

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Abilities of no less than 1500 resource persons have been strengthened, whether company, personnel or consultants.



► **Kalilou TRAORE**  
Commissioner for  
Industry and Private  
sector Promotion

More and more countries in the region are working to complete their National Quality Policy for the policies or sub-policies on food safety



## Dear Readers,

In our previous edition, we presented the considerable advances recorded by the Member States in drawing up the National Quality Policies in line with the Regional ECOQUAL Policy. In this edition, we are concentrating on strengthening the countries' capabilities on Food Safety (FS).

The WTO Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) recognize that a country should not be prevented from taking the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the health and life of its citizens.

This is why in 2010, with a view to guiding countries in this sensitive area, the region adopted Regulation C/REG.21/11/10, in order to harmonizing the structural framework and operating rules on health, safety of foods, plants and animals within the ECOWAS region.

Nevertheless, the implementation of national and regional policies in FS cannot be successful without the support of competent human resources. In this context training initiatives in this area have multiplied since stage 1 of the quality program (2001). The abilities and knowledge in this area of around 1500 resource persons have been strengthened, whether on a company, personnel or consultants' level.

The WAQSP, in a dynamic of continuity and improvement, has registered about 100 of these experts in seven (7) countries and conducted qualitative training in food safety (FS) with them. This means creating a core group of confirmed expertise as well as effectively serving the players in the area with a view to improving the FS practices at a national level.

Based on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), one should remember that failings in FS weigh very heavily on economies. Even in 1997, the estimated costs associated with food illnesses caused by micro-organisms in the United States varied between 6.5 and 34.9 billion USD. Just imagine what this means to exposed and vulnerable countries.

It is important to note that, faced with the challenges relating to FS, more and more countries in the region are working to complete their National Quality Policy for the policies or sub-policies on food health and safety; this is to their credit and must be warmly applauded.

West Africa is changing. Each day it is becoming more and more integrated into world trade. The ECOWAS Commission intends to continue to fully play its part in supporting these changes and promotes more quality to the benefit of our populations. That is what I want to discuss in our next issue: the winners of the national quality awards will be announced. While waiting to know the lucky winner of the ECOWAS Quality Award, we will give more visibility to the efforts agreed by the latter to reach this result of excellence in their respective countries. These efforts are worthy of being copied without reserve.

**Good reading**  
Kalilou Traoré

## Implementation of the WAQSP Mauritania ratifies its National Quality Policy



Following the example of several members of the ECOWAS region, Mauritania ratified its National Quality Policy, based on that of ECOWAS, during a workshop held at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Nouakchott, on the 15th of March 2017. This was in the presence of Ms. Naha Mint Hamdy Ould Mouknass, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism for Mauritania, Pédro MARTINEZ VARGAS, Head of Policy, Press and Information Section of the European Union delegation to Mauritania and the Vice-Chairman of the Nouakchott Chamber of Commerce.

### ECOWAS lays the foundations for a Regional Quality Infrastructure in Bamako

As part of the support that it provides for the implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL), the WAQSP organized from the 1st to 3rd of February 2017 an information workshop in Mali on the results of the study for the implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure plan.

The workshop was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Aly Ag Ibrahim, the Malian Minister for Industrial Development, in the presence of Mr. Kalilou Traoré, ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion. It took place in the presence of the experts who had carried out the study. The latter presented the results of the study to the WAQSP national focal points for the 15 ECOWAS member states, the representatives of the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions, the West Africa Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI), the West Africa Federation of Employers (FWAEA), NINAS (Nigerian Accreditation Body), the West Africa Accreditation System (SOAC), the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the PTB, the Africa office of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC-Africa), to name just a few.

Major recommendations were made at the end of the workshop, amongst which: Accelerate the



Commissioner K. Traore and the Malian minister (white dress), in the middle of representatives of the PTB (left side) and of UNIDO at the press conference

implementation and operation of the Quality Community Council and its components within the WAQSP framework; create the ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ) as quickly as possible; to accelerate - within the framework of the WAQSP - the rapid development of the ECOWAQ revenue generating activities; encourage the private sector specializing in the different quality areas to become members of private employers' organizations, e.g. FWAEA and FEWACCI; to support the official adoption of the National Quality Policies' projects in the countries, etc.

## The ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopts the texts for operating the Regional Quality Infrastructure structures.



Group photo - Ministerial meeting (Abidjan)

Following the meeting in Bamako, the ECOWAS Commission organized, with the technical and financial support of the WAQSP, two ministerial meetings in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) on the 20th and 21st of April 2017. On the 20th of April, the Ministers for Industry and Agriculture adopted draft resolutions for the development of the industrial change for cacao and cashews. On the 21st of April, the Ministers of Industry and those in charge of quality adopted the texts for operating the Regional Quality Infrastructure.

The meetings took place in the presence of all the partners and parties involved in the program.

Within a meeting in Monrovia from the 1st to 2nd of June 2017, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, in its 78th assembly, adopted the texts on the Regional Quality Infrastructure and the resolutions on cashews and cacao, also following the recommendation made in Abidjan by the ministers in charge of quality.



From left to right: Commission Chairperson, Chairperson of the Conference and Commissioner Traore, posing in front of the WAQSP materials at the exit of the conference room

## Implementation and impact of the WAQSP: the ECOWAS Commission will follow-up in the field.



B. Bau (WAQSP / UNIDO Representative) and F. Traore (ECOWAS), posing with the team of the National Health Laboratory of Mali

The ECOWAS Commission regularly visits the program beneficiaries, particularly to measure the effectiveness of the actions managed by it. After the visits in 2016 to the reference laboratories in Dakar, Ouagadougou and Cotonou, the ECOWAS Commission followed up with a mission in Mali. Indeed, on 1st February 2017, Commissioner Kalilou Traore visited the National Health Laboratory, which had received support from the previous phases of the program for the accreditation of its microbiology section. Mr. Traoré was accompanied by the WAQSP Project Manager at UNIDO, Mr. Bernard Bau, the Chairman of the West Africa Chambers of Commerce (FEWACCI), the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors





(PCA) of the West African Accreditation System and the NINAS (Nigeria National Accreditation Service). Besides the meetings in Bamako (Mali) and Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Commissioner Traoré had audiences with the supervising ministers. These meetings were the opportunity for the UNIDO members of the Commissioner's delegation to inform these authorities of the progress in implementing the WAQSP. On the 2nd of February 2017, the Malian Minister for Industrial Development, Mr. Mohamed Aly Ag Ibrahim, also welcomed the Commissioner's delegation which consisted of representatives from the WAEMU, UNIDO, NINAS, SOAC, IEC Africa, FWAEA, FEWACCI, PTB and AFRAC. On the 18th of April 2017, the Ivorian Minister for Industry and Mining, Mr. Jean Claude Brou, received Commissioner Traoré in the presence of the Director of Industry at ECOWAS, the Head of the Quality Promotion Division at the WAEMU, Chairmen of NINAS and SOAC, the WAQSP Project Manager at UNIDO and its Chief Technical Advisor based in Abuja.

At Bamako like in Abidjan, the two ministers assured Commissioner Traoré of their firm willingness to

support at the highest level, the text validation process which would govern the implementation of the Regional Quality Infrastructure. They congratulated the ECOWAS Commission for its many initiatives to promote quality in the region. They also expressed their sincere thanks to the European Union and UNIDO for their decisive supports for quality promotion in the region.

On May 31st 2017, at the invitation of Liberian Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Axel Addy, Mr. Aka Jean Joseph Kouassi, Chief Technical Advisor of the WAQSP and advisor to the Commissioner of ECOWAS, outlined the level of implementation of the WAQSP.

Following him, the minister welcomed the level of implementation of the program in his country and in the region. He undertook to do everything possible to speed up the process of adopting the National Quality Policy, but also to take the necessary measures for its implementation. These include the submission of an act setting up the national standardization institution to parliament. To this end, the support of the WAQSP was solicited.



Commissioner K. Traore presenting his delegation to the Malian Minister for Industrial Development

## UNIDO informs the parties involved...



B. Calzadilla - Sarmiento received in audience by the Director of Cabinet of the ECOWAS Commission

In February 2017, Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation at UNIDO, made a working visit to Abuja, particularly to meet all stakeholders. He held working sessions with ECOWAS Commission authorities; this includes the Director of the Office of the President of the Commission to whom he has given a special letter from the Director-General of UNIDO. He then met Mr. Kalilou Traore, Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion and Mr. Laouali Chaiboun, Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement, as well as the delegation of the European Union and the UNIDO Regional Office. He also held working sessions with the Regional Coordination Team of the WAQSP, which helped to provide an update on the status of the program. This enabled the Director to provide new guidance for better implementation of future actions.

Within the same month, Mr. Bernard Bau, WAQSP Project Manager from UNIDO, held a working session at the Delegation of the European Union (DEU) in Bamako, Mali, with Mr. Julien Bozon, head of Section Economics and Governance, newly in charge of quality issues at the

DEU. Mr. Bau gave an update on the activities and results, starting from the period 1997-1998 in which the EU-UNIDO negotiations started.

For his part, Mr. Aka Jean Joseph Kouassi, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the WAQSP, was in Monrovia, Liberia from May 30th to 31st, 2017. This move is part of the program's circular missions in the beneficiary states. At the Delegation of the European Union, he met Mr. Alberto MENGHINI, head of the Cooperation and Resilience Section, and Mr. Hubert BLOM, International Aid and Cooperation Officer for Agriculture, Food Security and Environment.

The Chief Technical Advisor also held technical meetings with the National Focal Point (NFP), the members of the National Monitoring Committee (NMC), the National Technical Coordinator (NTC), the team of the National Standards Laboratory, the National Quality Manager and the Technical Working Group for Development of Agribusiness Activities in Liberia (LADA/USAID). These meetings allowed him to discuss the status of implementation of the program and its prospects in Liberia.



1. Delegation of the EU – Liberia	2. Office of Minister of Industry - Côte d'Ivoire	3. Office of Minister of Industry – Mali
4. Bernardo C. with ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade	5. Office of Minister of Industry – Liberia	6. Bernardo C. with ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry
7. Office of Director of Cabinet of the President of the ECOWAS Commission	8. Delegation of the EU – Mali	9. LADA Liberia



## Food safety management system the WAQSP consolidates its expertise in the region.

*“Unsafe food persists and endangers the lives of millions of individuals on the African continent. Illnesses arising from food put extra costs on the health services and negatively influence economic performance. Failure to observe food safety measures also harms local and regional trading and international commerce in food products. It is a barrier to market access, a demoralising factor for investors and the cause of the devaluation of food prices” Source: African Union – Inter-African Office for Animal Resources (UA-BIRA).*

### A pool of experts in food safety management system (FSMS) is now available in the region

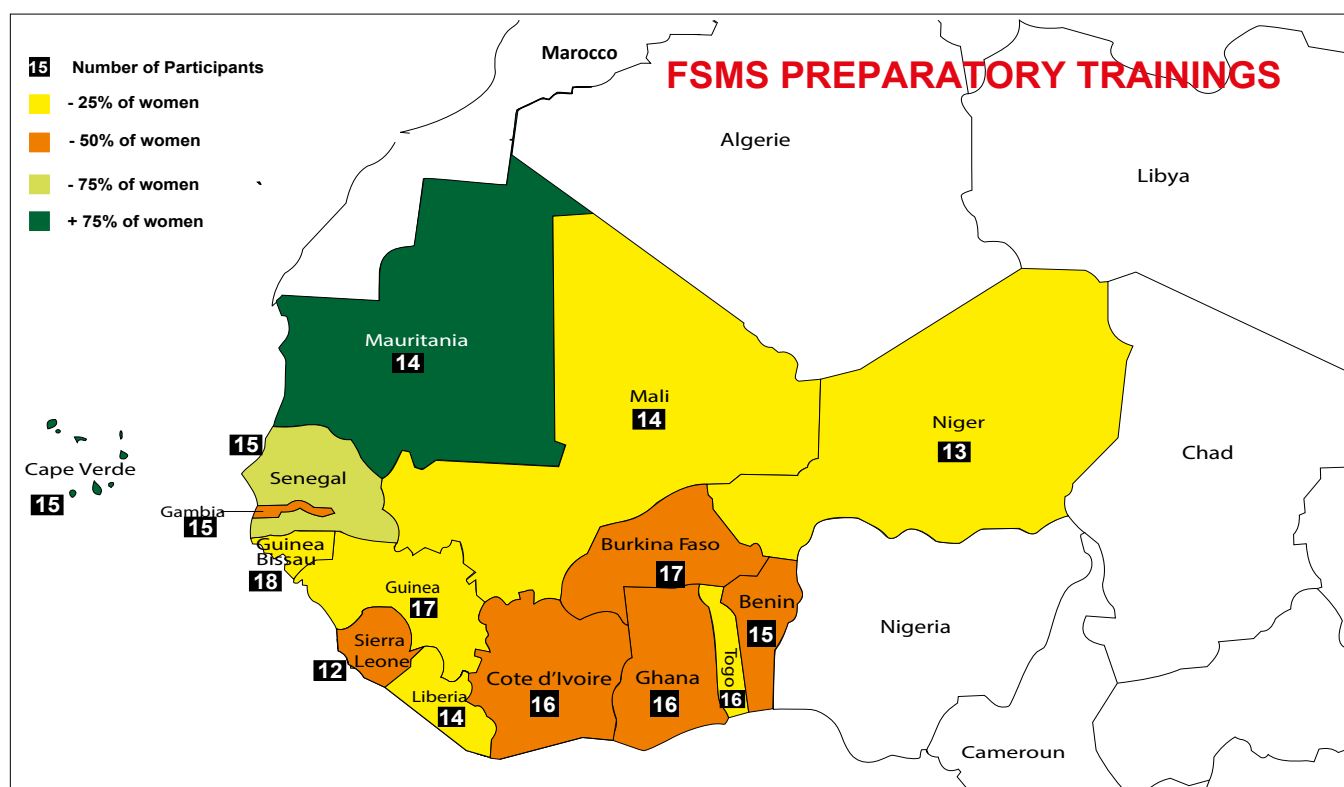
According to the World Health Organization, each year 420,000 people - including 125,000 children - die from eating contaminated food; for the same reasons, 1 person out of 10 falls ill; Africa and South East Asia are the two regions that are paying the highest price.

In addition, food exports from West Africa are generally constrained by the FSMS issue, particularly with the ban on the entry of products or export suspensions, mostly to the European Union and the United States.

Faced with this issue, which concerns both trade and public health, the West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP), implemented by UNIDO and funded by the European Union, has initiated actions for capacity building

in FSMS. 225 resource persons - selected candidates in 15 countries - have undergone preparatory trainings for FSMS consultants in accordance with the ISO 22000 standard. At the end of the course, 105 candidates, including 40 women, were assessed and deemed fit to participate in a qualifying training as an «ISO 22,000 consultant».

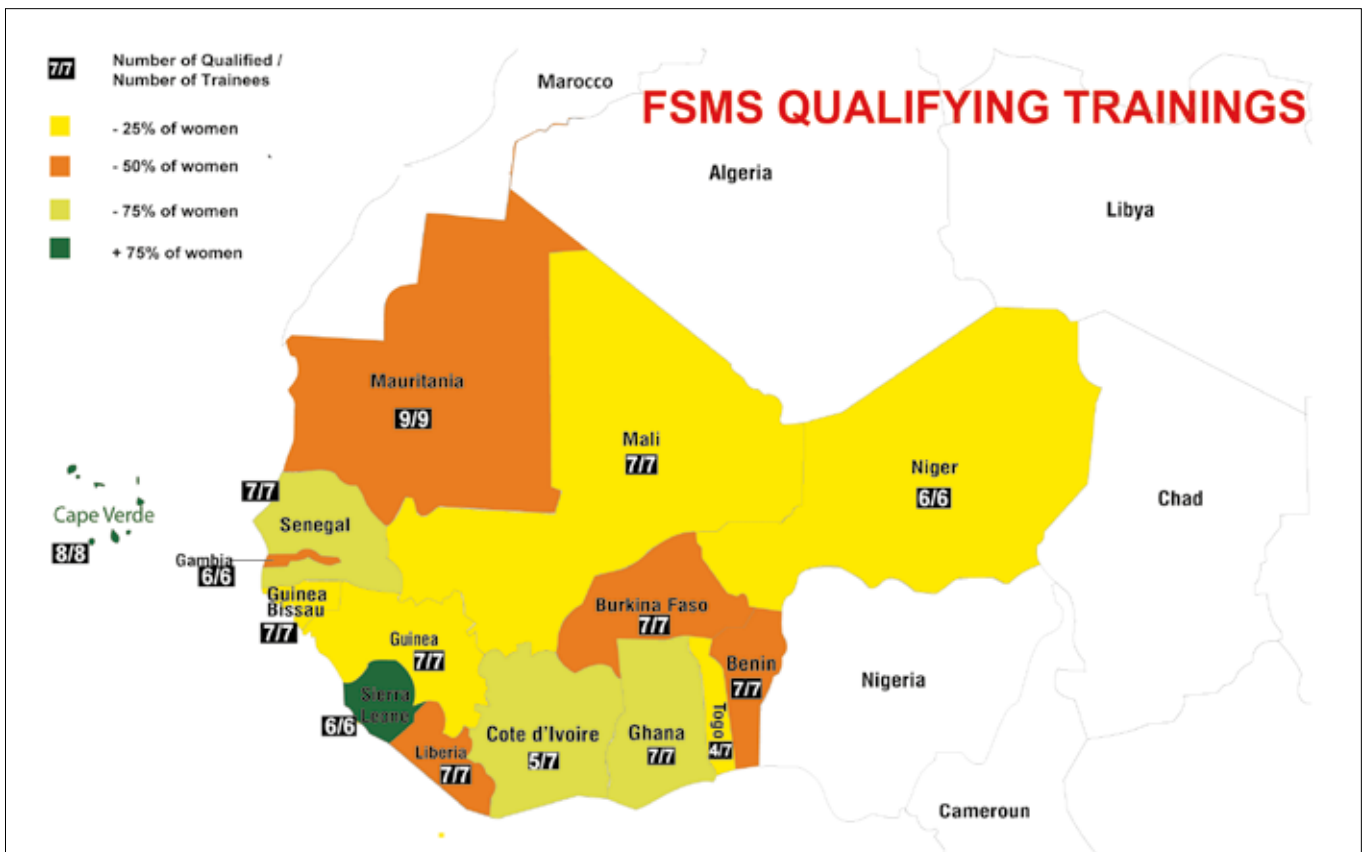
For qualification training in quality management, the usual practice is to train auditors. However, in the region many of them lose their qualifications after a few years, due to the lack of sufficient auditing activities required to maintain their auditor’s certificate. The approach undertaken by UNIDO in collaboration with AFNOR (the certification body chosen after a call for tender) helps to reduce this risk: to maintain their qualification, the «ISO 22 000 consultants» will have to demonstrate that they carried out consulting services in FS.



Out of 105 candidates, 100 passed the exam. It should be noted that the success rate of women is 100%. In the end, each country has now an average pool of 7 experts ready to support actors in the food chain, especially economic operators. The WAQSP will carry out promotional activities to inform all interested parties of the availability of these resource persons who combine FSMS expertise & nearness to the region.

To take gender into account in the activities of the program as recommended by stakeholders (ECOWAS, European Union, UNIDO), a particular interest has been raised in the following maps and tables.

This allows, in the case of these courses, to appreciate the involvement of women in the various activities of the WAQSP.





## BENIN

The following seven (7) people, of which 29 % were women, were selected for qualifying training.



	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Issiaka SOULE	M	E.T.E.S.A.
2	AGBOTON Y. Egidia Vanessa C.	M	Independent consultant
3	LALEYE Claude	M	Independent consultant/Trainer
4	ZOMAHOUN Jean-Patrice	M	Consultant
5	SOULE Issiaka	M	ETESA
6	KOUEMEDO L. Rhomziyath K.	F	Consultant
7	Dehoue Mireille	F	Consultant

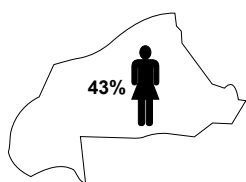
Food safety (F.S.) in Benin is in principle assured by the Benin Food Health and Safety Agency (ABSSA); nevertheless, the ABSSA does not yet have the means to oversee health safety in the whole country. A F.S. policy is being drawn up and should allow the country to have a single compass to deal with these questions. The old structure which assured F.S. (Direction

de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition Appliquée [Department for Food and Applied Nutrition]: DANA) continues to operate in the country in such a way that producers and processors do not know which structure to confide in. The ministry in charge of food safety has launched an inquiry so that the sector reform can organize the structures for effective results.



## BURKINA FASO

The following seven (7) people, of which 43 % were women, were selected for qualifying training.



	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	NYAMBA Djakaridja	M	ABNORM
2	LOMPO/ OUEDRAOGO Maria Goretie	F	Student
3	SANFO/BOYARM Eléonore	F	ONEA
4	NIKIEMA Fulbert	M	LNSP
5	KOUDOUGOU Karim	M	CHRISTON EXPERTISES
6	SOME/ DAMOUE Mariam	F	Department for the Protection of Plants and Packaging
7	OUEDRAOGO Daniel	M	PHARMACIE BARKWENDE

Food safety at a national level is mainly ensured by the ministries in charge of Trade, Agriculture, Health, Animal Resources, Environment and Scientific Research. A national committee for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures has been established, as well as the Codex Alimentarius to deal with issues regarding food safety. A scientific committee is expected to be set up to assess the risks.

As regards the national expertise in FSMS issues, the first two stages of the Quality Programme and other national initiatives have permitted several experts to be trained, of whom some were successful in the qualifying training for the ISO 22000 standard.



## CAPE VERDE

The following eight (08) people, of which 75 % were women, were selected to benefit from qualifying training.

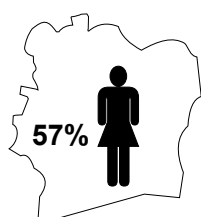


	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Adriano CRUZ	M	CCB
2	Eliane SPENCER	F	ARFA
3	Fatima SANTOS	F	Consultant
4	Ivone LOPES	F	ACOPESCA
5	Samuel LEITE	M	Consultant
6	Veronica FERNANDES	F	IGQPI
7	Zuleika RODRIGUES	F	IGAE
8	Ivandra GONÇALVES	F	IGQPI

Food safety in Cape Verde has made progress over the last few years. The WAQSP has contributed to improving this important sector, both by training the competent authorities and by supporting the accreditation of the bodies that assess the compliance of products.

## IVORY COAST

The following seven (07) people, of which 57 % were women, were selected to benefit from qualifying training.



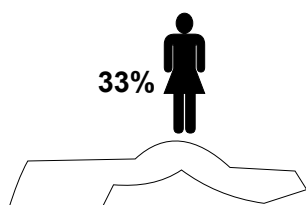
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Diomandé Loua Wohi	M	Protéin Kissè La (PKL)
2	Aguié Aguié Vilasco Emerson	M	Sapled
3	Alice GNENAGO	F	CONDICAF
4	Carew Brou Bossoma	F	Société Internationale de Charcuterie et de Salaison (SICS)
5	Brou Christiane	F	SIPRA
6	N'DRI Kouassi Désiré	M	Ministry of Industry and Mining
7	N'CHO Belle Sabine	F	Les moulins Modernes de Côte d'Ivoire

Ivory Coast has several experts in FSMS. They were trained during the previous stages of the quality program or were trained individually by their own means. One should note that for this training two of the experts used by AFNOR are Ivorian natives: Mrs. Bamba Hamza Fatou and Mr Alain Koreki. Ivory Coast also has several FSMS certified companies and several FSMS auditors.



## GAMBIA

The following six (06) people, of which 33 % were women, were selected for qualifying training.



	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Ismaila JADAMA	M	The Gambia Standards Bureau
2	Awa JENG	F	The Gambia Standards Bureau
3	Ngenarr NJIE	F	The Gambia Standards Bureau
4	Bai Dodou JALLOW	M	The Gambia Standards Bureau
5	Joseph NDENN	M	The Gambia Standards Bureau
6	Lamin S. DARBOE	M	Plant Protection Services

The evaluation of the food quality control system in Gambia carried out by UNIDO in 2009 found a fragmented and ineffective mechanism. After this, a law, the Food Safety and Quality Act (FSQA), was adopted in 2011 with the notable result of creating a central agency, the Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA). This pilot manages the issues on food safety and quality, including water, beverages and animal food. Operational since July 2013, it currently includes nearly 50 agents, of whom 20 are inspectors. Memorandums of understanding have been signed with certain structures to guarantee healthy products over the entire territory since the current personnel cannot cover all of Gambia on its own.



## GHANA

The following seven (07) people, of which 57 % were women, were selected to benefit from qualifying training.



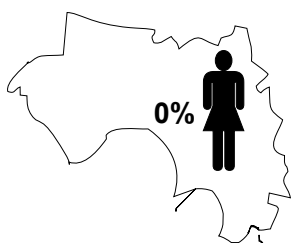
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Dzienyo Akutor AKAFIA	F	Ghana Standards Authority
2	John ANSAH	M	Allied Cocoa Ghana Limited
3	Gloria OSEI	F	Ghana Standards Authority
4	Elvis Teye DASI-KISEH	M	Niche Cocoa Limited
5	Naomi Amo ESHUN	F	Ghana Standards Authority
6	Emmanuel Adjetey ADJEI	M	Ghana Standards Authority
7	Maria Aba LOVELACE-JOHNSON	F	Food and Drugs Authority

In Ghana, the major concerns and gaps that existed in terms of health safety in the national plan required that a national policy for food safety (PNSA) was set up in 2015.

The PNSA was thus adopted to deal with the problems linked to biological, chemical and physical contamination in the country's food chain. The PNSA makes sure that the producers and other commercial operators in the food chain have the capability to ensure the quality and health and safety of the food available on the market. Similarly, it ensures that the activities of the different regulators operating in the food control mechanism are harmonized; since, up until then, these activities were not fully coordinated.

## GUINEA

In Guinea, the following seven (07) people were selected to benefit from qualifying training.



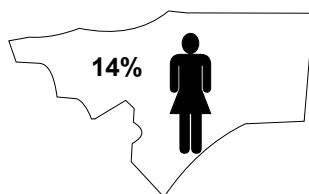
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Mohamed Kalifa CAMARA	M	National Quality Control Office
2	Ansoumane KEITA	M	National Quality Control Office
3	Abdoulaye Fanta CAMARA	M	Standardisation Bureau
4	Cherif Mohamed LAMINE DIALLO	M	Veterinary Surgeon
5	Lamine KABA	M	National Office for Fisheries and Aquaculture
6	Salif KOIVOGUI	M	IGNM
7	Aly SYLLA	M	IGNM - Standardisation Bureau

At the moment, the Republic of Guinea does not have a National Agency for Food Safety. The main services operating in the food safety area are, among others: the Guinea Standards and Metrology Institute, the National Quality Control Office, the National Office for the Health Control of Fishery and Aquaculture Products, the Environmental Research Centre, the Veterinary Control and Diagnostic Laboratory, the National Department for Veterinary Services, the National service for the Protection of Plants and Stored Foods, the National Agriculture Department, the Guinea Agency for the Promotion of Exports, the Public Hygiene Service and the National Laboratory for the Quality Control of Medicines.

Guinea has a few specialists in the food area, based on their initial or professional training. Currently, only one company is ISO 22000 certified: BONAGUI (Guinea non-alcoholic drinks), a subsidiary of the COCA COLA Company group.

## GUINEA BISSAU

At the end of the preparatory training for the FSMS training organized by the WAQSP in Bissau from the 18th to 19th July 2016, the following seven (07) people, of which 14 % were women, were selected to benefit from qualifying training. The latter was held in Bissau from the 10th to 12th April 2017.



	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Maria Pereira TECANHE	F	Agri-Food company
2	Mario Alfredo MENDONÇA	M	Person in charge of agribusiness support
3	Marcelino M. BRIMPANDE	M	Ministry of Agriculture
4	Francisco Jose LOPES	M	Industrial Inspection
5	Soares Faustino VAZ	M	PSQAO
6	Victor Arsenio BALDE	M	Industrial Consultant
7	Aylton Fernando CRATO CA	M	DNSPQ

Guinea Bissau has experts in FSMS who were trained during the previous stages of the quality program or were trained individually through their own means. Today, a network of consultants in the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) is expected to be created at a national level; this will in turn train company technicians the ISO 22000 standard level.





## LIBERIA

The following seven (07) people, of which 29 % were women, were selected after the preparatory stage, to benefit from qualifying training.



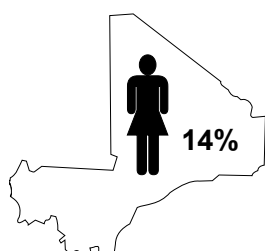
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Cole M. TARNUE	M	MINISTRY OF HEALTH
2	Patrick A. BLAMO Jr	M	NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY
3	Lord Ernest P. BENJAMIN	M	NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY
4	Florence S. GADEGBEKU	F	NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY
5	Baldwin B. DAVIES	M	LIBERIA WATER AND SEWAGE CORPORATION
6	Grace O. GWESA	F	MINISTRY OF HEALTH
7	Alphonso K. FREEMAN	M	NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY

Recently, the food situation in Liberia has aroused serious concern with the parties involved in the private and public sectors. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Health, the competent authority for food health, has passed a law on public health and national guidelines on the healthiness of foods which constitute a legal tool for food safety in the country. Despite this, there is no national framework on food legislation. A national conference on the safety of foods took place recently in Liberia from 15th to 30th March 2017. A call was launched to enact a law on food safety. After the training of national experts in food safety organized by the WAQSP, the National Standards Laboratory of Liberia is already considering setting up a national awareness and training program on the management system for food safety for local food plants and industries.



## MALI

The following seven (07) people, of which 14 % were women, benefited from qualifying training.



	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Ibrahima SANGARE	M	QSE Consulting
2	Drissa COULIBALY	M	National Department for Veterinary Services
3	Aminata Fofana SIMPARA	F	LNS
4	Madou COULIBALY	M	ANSSA
5	Idrissa Simbo DIAKITE	M	D2c Sarl
6	Sekou Sallah OMBOTIMBE	M	AMANORM
7	Issiaka ISMAILA	M	AMANORM

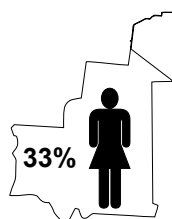
Mali has several official food support and control services. They are housed in the different ministries (Agriculture, Farming and Fishing, Public Health and Hygiene, Trade, Industrial Development, Economy and Finance). It concerns:

- Official food control services (National Veterinary Services Department, National Agriculture Department, National Health Department, General Trade Department, Consumer and Competition, National Department for Decontamination and Control of Pollution and Pests, General Customs Department);
- Support and coordination services for food safety (National Department for Animal Production and Industries, Plant Protection Bureau, National Industry Department, National Fisheries Department, General Department for the National Police);
- A national coordination body for standardization (Mali Standardization Agency - AMANORM);
- A national coordination body for food safety actions (National Food Safety Agency);
- Laboratories (National Health Laboratory, Central Veterinary Laboratory, Animal Nutrition Laboratory, Food technology Laboratory, National Water Laboratory, Control Laboratory for the Packaging of DNA Agricultural Products, National Metrology Laboratory).

## MAURITANIA

The training concerned nine (09) people of which 33% were women:





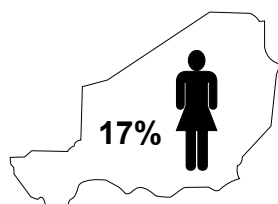
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Moina EBOU	F	University of Nouakchott
2	Al Amma Moulaye ELY	F	DNPQ – Head of Certification Service
3	Sidi Mohamed Ould VARAJOU	M	AL WATANIA for dairy products
4	Mohamed Lemine HASNI	M	PSQAO – DNPQ
5	Mamadou Amadou LY	M	Société Mauritanienne des produits Laitiers (Mauritania Company for Dairy Products)
6	Boubacar N'GAIDE	M	ASMA Quality
7	Boubacar BABAHA	M	Veterinary Services Department - Farming
8	Rabab Mint HACHEM	F	Quality Promotion Office
9	Sidi Mohamed HAIBALLA	M	DNPQ – Head of Quality and Standards Service

Mauritania has a significant wealth of agricultural and grazing lands which allows it to be self-sufficient in food and take advantage of a production surplus for export. Moreover, a growing awareness on the part of the decision makers regarding consumer protection and the requirements of international markets in food safety should be noted. Several standards, mainly in the food area, have already been adopted. Similarly, national standardization technical committees are in the process of implementing national standards on rice and wheat.



## NIGER

The following six (06) people, of which 17 % were women, selected after the preparatory stage, benefited from qualifying training.



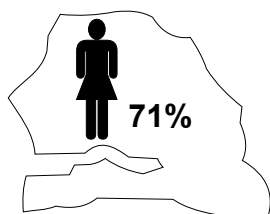
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Seyni Djermaakoye Oumarou	M	ORIBA SA (Agribusiness)
2	Douma Adamou	M	Independent consultant
3	Amadou Maman Aminou	M	Independent consultant
4	Namadina Mounkaila	M	Société de Transformation Alimentaire (STA) (Food transformation company)
5	Abdourahamane Touré Kadidiatou	F	Société de Transformation Alimentaire (STA) (Food transformation company)
6	Zakari Yaou AbdoulAziz	M	Consultant

In Niger, the picture that emerges is the absence of a specialized structure in charge of food safety issues. However, the F.S. problem raises an urgent issue due to the lack of traceability of foods available in the market (especially large consumption foods: milk, meat, fish and imported frozen chicken, eggs, etc.). Similarly, the lack of hygiene for these foods is noted. The National Agency for Verification and Compliance with Standards (AVCN) could have participated in ensuring this traceability. Unfortunately, this agency is not fully operational due to the absence of a regulatory framework encompassing all its activities. Similarly, the Public Hygiene and Health Education Department (Health Police), a structure created to educate and make food producers aware of hygiene, is not fully operational because of the lack of human resources and insufficient equipment.



## SENEGAL

The following seven (07) people, of which 71 % were women, selected after the preparatory stage, benefited from qualifying training.



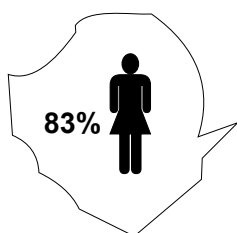
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	DIOUF Mandieme Sanba Fall	M	LQT Consulting
2	Ibrahima NDOYE	M	African Emergency Council Office
3	Diariétou DIOP	F	EUROGERM
4	Mame Pane Sakho BA	F	NESTLE Senegal
5	Rokhaya DIAKHATE	F	PATISEN
6	Mossane DIOUF	F	PATISEN S.A.
7	Ndeye Maguette DIOP	F	ASN Senegal

Following the study on the National Quality Policy, which will be adopted officially by Decree of the President of the Republic, UNIDO, through the Country Partnership Programme (PCP), sponsored a study to define a sector policy on Food Safety.

An inclusive approach involving the main parties concerned was similarly applied and was adopted after an information meeting followed by a validation workshop. The next stage will be the official validation by the State of Senegal.

## SIERRA LEONE

The following six (06) people, of which 83 % were women, selected after the preparatory stage, benefited from qualifying training.



	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	Amina BAWOH	F	Sierra Leone Bottling Company
2	Ms Abibatu CONTEH	F	Ministry of Health & Sanitation
3	Isatu Binta KAMARA	F	Sierra Leone Standards Bureau
4	Jartu A. G. MUANA	F	Sierra Leone Standards Bureau
5	Mbalu Regina KARGBO	F	Private Consultant
6	Elvis Koroma	M	Sierra Leone Standards Bureau

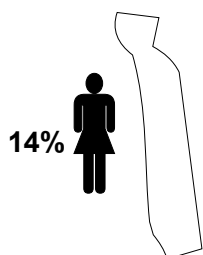
The structures in charge of food safety (F.S.) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) in Sierra Leone are fragmented. Indeed, these issues are dealt with by different institutions housed in the following Ministries:

- Ministry of Health and Decontamination;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Safety;
- Ministry of Trade and Industry, with the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau;
- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

All these institutions have legislative acts that oversee their responsibilities on F.S. and SPS issues in Sierra Leone.

## TOGO

The following seven (07) people, of which 14 % were women, selected after the preparatory stage, benefited from qualifying training.



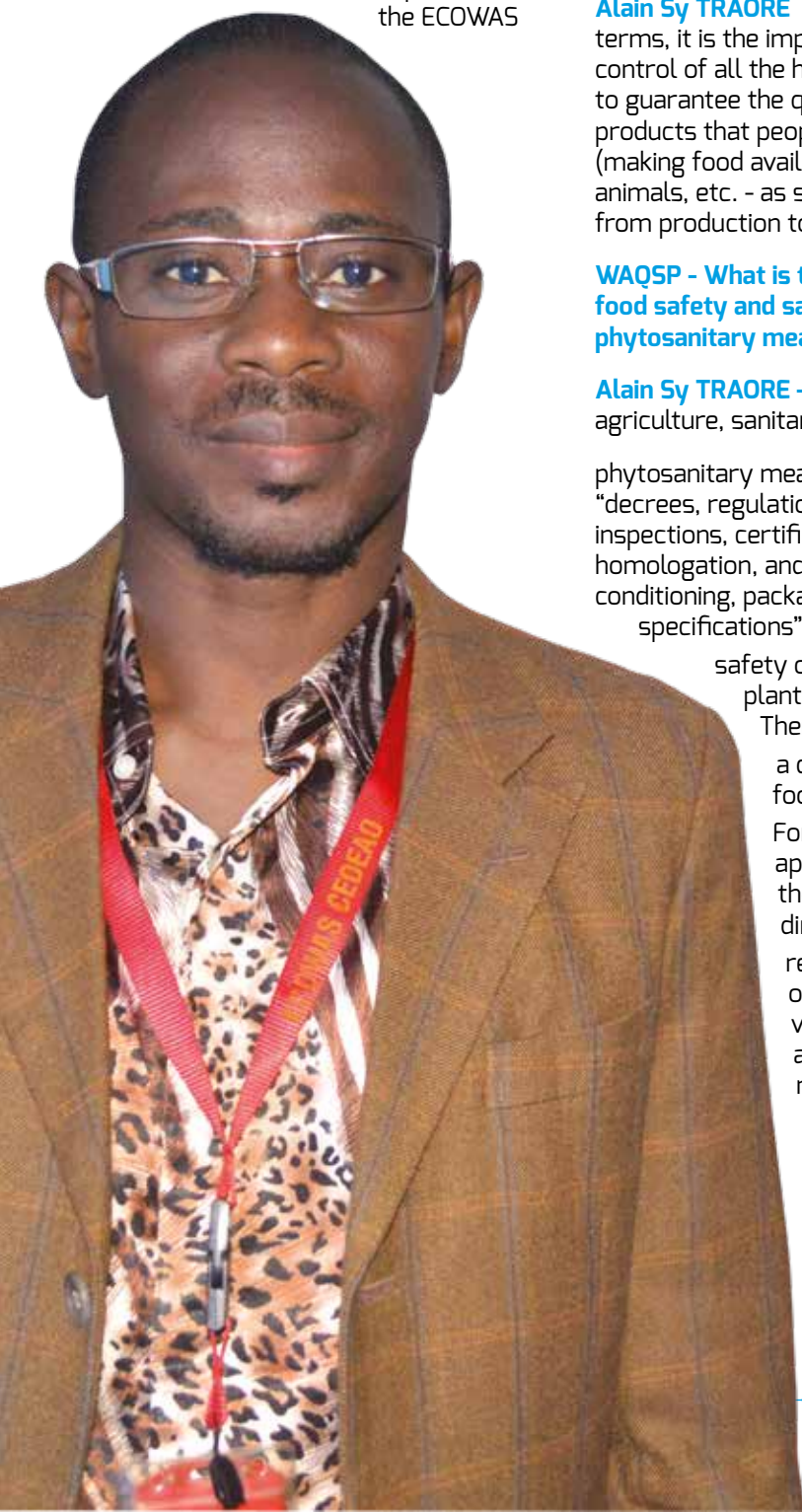
	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	INSTITUTIONS
1	M. GBENONSI Koffi	M	Brasserie BB Lomé
2	M. ABOTSI Komi Anani	M	BB Vitale (Mineral Water)
3	Dr LANDJERGUE Boulodjoh	M	Farming Department
4	Dr LOGONDA Pangabou	M	Farming Department
5	M. ANANI Kokou	M	Biological and Food Techniques High School (ESTBA)
6	M. AGBONGO Kossivi Dodji	M	National Institute of Hygiene (INH)
7	Mme OLA Fatima	F	New Oil Producing Industry of Togo (NIOTO)

Togo has about fifteen specialists trained in Hygiene Good Practices, HACCP and management systems for food safety (FSMS) from the two (2) previous stages of the Quality Programme which developed in the agri-businesses. Two (2) of these specialists (one of whom is a woman) are ISO 22000 certified auditors. Regarding the national structures in charge of food safety, the following institutions must be mentioned: the Decontamination Division (Ministry of Health), the Farming Department (Ministry of Agriculture) and the Competition Department (Ministry of Trade).

## Mr Alain Sy Traoré, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the ECOWAS Commission, speaks

### WAQSP - Please introduce yourself

**Alain Sy TRAORE** - I am an agronomist by training and currently have the privilege and difficult task of taking on the role of Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the ECOWAS



Commission, which I joined in 2008 as head of the "Agricultural Industry and Market" division.

### WAQSP - What simple definition, in plain language, would you give to the concept of food safety?

**Alain Sy TRAORE** - In simple terms, it is the implementation and control of all the hygiene measures to guarantee the quality of the products that people consume (making food available - plants, animals, etc. - as safely as possible) from production to consumption.

### WAQSP - What is the link between food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary measures?

**Alain Sy TRAORE** - Adapted to agriculture, sanitary and

phytosanitary measures are the "decrees, regulations, checks, inspections, certification, homologation, and even the conditioning, packaging and labelling specifications" in relation to the

safety of foods, plants, animals, etc.

Therefore, there is a direct link with food safety.

For example, the application of the standards, directives or recommendations on food additives, veterinary drugs and pesticide residues, promote healthy products being put on the market.

### WAQSP - What are the issues today for food health and safety in the ECOWAS area and the world?

**Alain Sy TRAORE** - There are many issues. More specifically, it involves guaranteeing the safety and health control of foods, anticipating and detecting the microbiological risk and chemical risk all along the food chain. Besides the visual signs or cases of immediately visible spectacular intoxication, illnesses can survive for years after consumption (once, repeatedly or continually) of an uncontrolled food.

### WAQSP - What is the history of adopting regulations covering the harmonization of the structural framework and operating rules regarding the safety of foods, plants and animals in the ECOWAS area?

**Alain Sy TRAORE** - In November 2010, the Council of Ministers has adopted Regulation C/REG.21/11/10 covering the harmonization of the structural framework and operating rules regarding the safety of plants, animals and foods in the ECOWAS area. This result is the outcome of

a long dialogue process with the experts, the ECOWAS parliament, the sector ministers and, above all, the WAEMU Commission. In effect, 8 countries in the ECOWAS are members of the WAEMU which already had regulations on the subject, specifically Regulation no. 007/2007/CM/UEMOA regarding the safety of plants, animals and foods in the WAEMU. As such, Regulation C/REG.21/11/10 was drafted considering the WAEMU Regulations, thus allowing any redundancy or conflict in the texts to be avoided.





Regulation C/REG.21/11/10 applies to all the activities and dimensions of the safety of plants, animals and foods, including products arising from biotechnology. It applies equally to all stages of production, processing and distribution of plants, animals and marketed foods.

### **WAQSP - What is the level of implementation or organization of Regulation C/REG.21/11/10 in the member states?**

**Alain Sy TRAORE** - In compliance with community law, which takes precedence over national law, and based on the principles of subsidiarity, Regulation C/

REG.21/11/10 provides for several mechanisms and plans of action in its implementation, such as:

- The publication of the Regulation in the Official Journal of each member state;
- The implementation of training actions (Art. 33);
- The implementation of an

emergency fund by each member state to meet any cases of health emergency (Art. 36);

- The implementation and reinforcement of bodies in each sub-sector (Plants, Animals, Veterinary Drugs, SPS, etc.);
- The implementation of inter-sector dialogue and cooperation mechanisms: national committees, regional committees, etc.)
- The implementation of a centralized authorization system putting veterinary drugs on the market.

Globally, the provisions of Regulation C/REG.21/11/10 are implemented. In effect, after more than 5 years, in cooperation with different specialist institutions and other partners - notably the United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO), the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the African Union, the World Bank and the European Union - several

projects linked to the Regulation are in the process of being carried out.

Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that the internal mechanisms for the follow up, coordination and support to member states are still too weak

or even inadequate because of the lack of human resources and sufficient finance. Since the beginning of 2017, corrective measures are in progress,

particularly for more effectiveness in the application of the Regulation. Furthermore, the entry into operation of the Regional Agency for Food and Agriculture (ARAA) of the ECOWAS, a body implementing projects linked to the Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) should be noted. Moreover, this synergy between the ARAA and the Department should allow the

implementation of the Regulation to be improved considerably.



## First forum on food safety and investment in Nigeria



The Nigerian Ministers of Health (Butterfly Bow) and Agriculture (Cap), cutting the ribbon under the gaze of Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla - Sarmiento (far left) and the Nigerian Quality Infrastructure Program team - NQIP. (R. Tavares, Shaukat M., J. Tehinse)

**Lagos, 8th February 2017 - The interconnection between food safety, public health, investment and food trade was examined during the first “Nigerian forum on the health and safety of food and investment” which was held in Lagos, Nigeria, in February 2017.**

This event gathered key operators from public institutions, the private sector, international organizations, the best universities and civil society to exchange best world and local practices on the safety of food and upgrading the value chain. The opportunities for investment and partnerships in the agricultural and food sector were also on the agenda.

The forum was organized by the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO) in partnership with the European Union, the Nigerian government and Bureau for promoting investment and technology in Nigeria within the framework of the Nigerian quality infrastructure (NQIP).

The participants underlined the essential role of a strong quality infrastructure and a quality culture to ensure the safety of foods; they acknowledged that food safety is a responsibility shared by everyone. They called for the

strengthening of the regulation policy the promotion of value chains and better sharing of knowledge in the food safety area.

Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Department of UNIDO, on this occasion underlined the crucial role that investment plays in national prosperity. In his words “the creation of lasting development goals requires world investment which must go well beyond the current levels. In this regard, this forum was an important stage for Nigeria in view of achieving the Lasting Development Goals”, he added. He also invited a multi-party approach to link investment and food safety.

The forum brought together the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Audu Innocent Ogbah, the minister of Health, Isaac F. M. Adewole, representatives of the federal Ministry for Industry, Trade and Investment, the federal Ministry for the Environment and the federal Ministry for Science and Technology.

The participants also expressed their commitment to organizing further events in order to explore more possibilities for cooperation on the issue of investment in the food safety area.



## PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES

### 78th ordinary sitting of the Council of Ministers: the resolutions for the industrial development of cacao and cashews approved

On 20th April 2017, the ECOWAS Commission convened in Abidjan a meeting of the ministers of Agriculture and Industry on the industrial development of cacao and cashews. According to the Commissioner Kalilou Traoré, this meeting formed part of the framework for promoting agribusiness, the first of the four sector priorities for the regional industrial strategy. In view of this, certain key products such as cacao, cashews, palm oil, rice, etc. must be promoted. Unfortunately, he added “each country has drafted and implemented its national industrial development policy with poor cooperation at a regional level; this approach has not allowed profit to be

drawn from all of the region’s potential”. On completion of the work, two resolutions were adopted based on these speculations. They aim to promote and implement common policies and actions with a view to developing the added value of cashews and cacao grown in the region. As a reminder, the ECOWAS supplies about 45% and 70% of the world supply for cashews and cacao respectively. The ministers invited the ECOWAS Commission and the member states to take all the necessary measures to effectively implement these resolutions. Finally, they recommended that the ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopts the aforementioned resolutions.

Within the framework of its 78th ordinary sitting held in Liberia from 1st to 2nd June 2017, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers followed up this invitation favorably by adopting the two resolutions.



## DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

- **OTC Agreement(s) or OTC:** Agreement on the technical barriers to trade.
- **SPS Agreement(s) or SPS :** Agreement on the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
- **Health and safety:** covers the health and safety sectors for plants, animals and foods in order to ensure consumers' health and to guarantee protection of the environment within the Union.
- **Food safety:** corresponds to the capacity for each person to have always physical and economical access to basic food needs. A national food security strategy cannot be envisaged without ensuring food safety at the household level (PAM, 1989).
- **HACCP** (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point): The hazard analysis system-critical control points, is a method for controlling the health and safety of food commodities drawn up in the United State of America. Its aim is the prevention, removal or reduction to an acceptable level of all biological, chemical and physical hazards in food. To do this, the approach consists of a hazard analysis. The critical points are then put in place to control these hazards.
- **ISO 22000:** An International Standardization Organization (ISO) standard for food safety

The ISO 22000 standard defines the requirements for a food safety management system, whose compliance with the standard can be certified. It explains the means that an organization must implement to show its capability to control the hazards linked to this safety so as to guarantee that every food is safe (ISO.ORG).

## SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (SPS): REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

**The ECOWAS has a regulation on food safety since 2010: Regulation C/REG.21/11/10 regarding the harmonization of the framework and operating**

## rules regarding the safety of foods, plants and animals in the ECOWAS area.

The Regulation establishes the general principles and sets out the provisions and organizational procedures allowing the health and safety of plants, animals and foods to be ensured at a community and international level. It establishes the structures and mechanisms for cooperation on health and safety within the ECOWAS region.

The Regulation applies to all the activities and all dimensions of the health and safety of plants, animals and foods, including products arising from biotechnology. It applies equally to all stages of production, processing and distribution of plants, animals and marketed foods.

## The WAEMU has a regulation on food safety: Regulation no. 007/2007/CM/UEMOA regarding the safety of plants, animals and foods in the WAEMU.

This Regulation aims to establish the general principles and sets out the provisions and organizational procedures allowing the health and safety of plants, animals and foods to be ensured within the WAEMU area and its member states. It establishes the structures and mechanisms for cooperation on safety within the Union. It applies to all stages of production, processing and distribution of plants, animals and marketed foods.

The Regulation applies to all the activities and all dimensions of the safety of plants, animals and foods, including products arising from biotechnology.<sup>1</sup>

## UE-BIRA and UA – CPI

The African Union Commission already has a framework on a continental framework for the coordination of animal and plant health measures, notably the UA BIRA (UA Inter-African Bureau for animal resources) and the UA-CPI (Inter-African Phytosanitary Council).

## THE THREE SISTERS

- **OIE:** World Organization for Animal Health
- The need to combat animal diseases at a world level has led to the creation





## DID YOU KNOW?

of the International Office of Epizootic Diseases (OIE) through the International Agreement signed on the 25th of January 1924. In May 2003, the office became the World Organization for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE. The OIE is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

- The standards set out by the organization are recognized as worldwide references by the World Trade Organization (WTO). In 2017, the OIE has a total of 181 member countries,

maintains permanent relations with 71 other international and regional organizations and has regional and sub-regional offices on every continent (OIE.INT).

### **IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention**

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international agreement on plant health established in 1952. It aims to protect cultivated

<sup>1</sup> This regulation has been drafted based on UEMOA experience in the SPS field, notably the SPS UEMOA Regulation (Regulation no. 007/2007/CM/UEMOA regarding the safety of plants, animals and foods in the WAEMU region adopted in 2007). Indeed, UEMOA is covering 8 economies of the ECOWAS region and has adopted its Regulation since 2007.







# WAQSP IN A FEW WORDS

**West Africa Quality System program**

**Support for the implementation  
of the ECOWAS Quality Policy**

## DONOR

European Union

## FUNDING AMOUNT

EUR 12 000 000

## BENEFICIARIES

**Regional Level**

UEMOA Commission, ECOWAS Commission

**National Level**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo & Mauritania.

## IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

UNIDO

## ISSUES

Quality Infrastructure : Quality policy, Accreditation, Metrology, Standardization, Conformity assessment, Quality promotion  
Technical regulations

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