



2nd International Scientific Conference on Climate Change

From 31 May to 02 June 2022 in Niamey, Niger

Topic

Sustainability and Adaptation of the Agriculture Sector to Climate Change in West Africa and the Sahel

FINAL COMMUNIQUE



Organized by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) through the Regional Climate Center for West Africa and the Sahel AGRHYMET (RCC-WAS) with the financial support of the European Union and USAID, the second international scientific conference on climate change in West Africa and the Sahel was held face-to-face and online from 31 May to 02 June 2022 in Niamey, Niger with the facilitation of the National Agency for the Economy of Conferences (ANEC).

The overall objective of the conference was to share experiences and analyses on issues of vulnerability and adaptation strategies in the fields of agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry, water resources, fisheries, as well as greenhouse gas mitigation issues in West Africa and the Sahel.

With the main theme "Vulnerability and adaptation of the agriculture sector to climate change in West Africa and the Sahel", this second edition focused the debates specifically on the following themes: (i) Climate science; (ii) Climate risks, vulnerability and impacts; (iii) Adaptation of agriculture subsectors to climate variability and change; (iv) Funding mechanisms and, (v) Advocacy and communication to policy makers.

A total of two hundred and twenty-two (222) participants from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), bi- and multilateral cooperation, the United Nations system, international organizations, scientific and technical institutions (Universities and Research Centres), civil society, NGOs, producer organizations and the private sector took part in this second edition.

The opening ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture of Niger, Dr. ALAMBEDJI ABBA ISSA in the presence of several personalities, including the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Dr. Mamoudou Djibo; the High Commissioner for the 3N initiative, Mr. Ali Béty.

The ceremony was punctuated by the following speeches:

- Welcome from the Governor of the Niamey region
- Words from Dr Mahalmoudou HAMADOUN, Director General of the AGRHYMET-Regional Centre RCC-WAS
- Address by the representative of the Ambassador of the European Union to Niger
- Address by Mrs. Jo LESSER-OLTHETEN, Director of USAID/Niger representing the chairman of CILSS TFPs
- Address by Mrs. Cristelle PRATT, Assistant to the Secretary-General of the OACPS Secretariat for Environment and Climate Action

- Address by Mr. Sékou SANGARE, ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources
- Address by Dr Mohamadou ABDOULAYE, Executive Secretary of CILSS

The solemn opening speech was made by His Excellency **Dr. ALAMBEDJI ABBA ISSA**, Minister of Agriculture of Niger.

Before the start of the conference working sessions, some key messages were delivered by the following eminent personalities:

- Mr Ibrahim Assane MAYAKI, Honorary President of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC);
- Prof. Petteri TAALAS, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva;
- Mr. Daouda KONATE, Chairman of the African Directors of Meteorology;
- Dr Djimé ADOUM, High Commissioner of the Sahel Coalition

The work was organized in in plenary and parallel sessions, as well as panel discussions. A total of twenty communications were made in plenary and 27 communications in parallel sessions. In addition, three (3) panels were organized. The summary of the presentations and debates made in the parallel sessions were presented and discussed in plenary. In addition, 13 posters related to the different themes of the conference were exhibited.

From the various interventions and exchanges, the following recommendations were issued:

- Adopt an inclusive approach in climate change research through better community involvement and consideration of indigenous knowledge;
- Promote an interaction between physical and social sciences through the capitalization of cultural knowledge in different models and the contribution of communication specialists on local knowledge;
- Develop appropriate channels for disseminating climate information to grassroots communities;
- Take into account the gender dimension in the identification and implementation of climate change adaptation solutions;
- Prioritize, at the state level, actions that maximize synergies between adaptation, mitigation, food production and sustainable development;
- Build a strong public/private partnership around climate services;
- Create/strengthen the research vs policy interface so that decision-makers give greater priority to research;

- Popularize and scale up the various climate prediction tools and approaches that exist in the region;
- Focus on communication and advocacy for effective knowledge management on climate change;
- Promote scaling up adaptation measures across the three dimensions: incremental, systemic and transformational;
- Strengthen the capacities of countries so that they can have sufficient skills to address climate-related issues and for easy access to climate funds;
- Promote access to climate and weather data for research needs and find a sustainable mechanism for collecting and sharing quality data;
- Involve the scientific community more in the development and updating of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) but also in climate negotiations;
- Establish an observatory on the impacts of climate change in view of the high variability observed in the results of research on this issue;
- Mobilize adequate financing at national, regional and international levels for the integration of Climate Change into policies at the local, sectoral, national level, and for the scaling up of good practices to build resilience;

The conference happened in a spirit of conviviality and cordiality, with the common objective of contributing to the search for sustainable solutions to climate change issues.

At the end of the work, the participants in the conference launched a call "**Appel de Niamey**", and adopted three motions of thanks to the Nigerien authorities, technical and financial partners and universities and research institutions.

Done at Niamey on 02 June 2022

SOUS LE HAUT PATRONAGE DU MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU NIGER

THÈME
Vulnérabilité et adaptation du secteur de l'Agriculture face au changement climatique en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Sahel

31 Mai - 2 Juin 2022
Bravia Hôtel - Niamey, NIGER

2^e ÉDITION CONFÉRENCE SCIENTIFIQUE INTERNATIONALE SUR LE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE

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