



# CERFAMNews

CENTRE D'EXCELLENCE REGIONAL CONTRE LA FAIM ET LA MALNUTRITION

Newsletter

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*For 2020, CERFAM will focus on identifying and documenting good practices against hunger and malnutrition in Africa*

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The year 2020 ushers in a decade of ambitious actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, including the eradication of hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2).

It is therefore a year of great opportunities for CERFAM to fully carry out its mission, by leveraging the synergies and complementarities drawn from inclusive and holistic partnerships to support African governments in accelerating the achievement of SDG 2.

**For 2020, focus on documentation, dissemination of good practices and transfer of knowledge**

CERFAM's vision is to be a catalyst and an enabler for the identification, documentation and sharing of good practices that can make a real impact on the fight against hunger and malnutrition, through the promotion of knowledge exchange networks, the mobilization of expertise, capacity strengthening and South-South cooperation.

As you know, CERFAM's action in support of the Zero Hunger Sustainable Development Goal is based on a fruitful cooperation between countries from the South and solid and complementary partnerships to contribute to progress and development across the African continent.

In this second edition of our newsletter, I am pleased to share with you a few initiatives that CERFAM has initiated in 2019 and which will be pursued throughout 2020, such as the fruitful engagement with the African Union Commission and other high-level meetings and consultations organized with international, continental and regional institutions to explore partnership opportunities.

In November-December 2019, CERFAM embarked on its very first experiences sharing and knowledge/skills transfer mission between Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. This initiative was part of the measures to support national efforts to enhance the cassava value chain. Testimonies from the beneficiaries confirm the need to work together and prove that it is possible to find lasting African solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition in the Continent.

In addition, CERFAM, together with the Centre of Excellence in China, were pleased to partner with ECOWAS, CILSS and CIRAD to jointly organize an international workshop to reflect on good practices and innovative technologies that will reduce post-harvest losses in order to improve food security and nutrition in Africa.

As far as I am concerned, I can reassure you that CERFAM will continue to work in close collaboration with governments, institutions and partners at the national, regional and continental levels to support efforts aimed at achieving Zero Hunger.

**Issa SANOGO, Director of CERFAM**



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## About CERFAM

The Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) is the result of a partnership between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the World Food Programme (WFP) to support countries in their national efforts to develop and implement sustainable policies and programmes to achieve Zero Hunger (SDG2) and combat all forms of malnutrition in line with the 2030 Agenda.

➡ **Strategic objective** : Promote and facilitate access and knowledge sharing in order to transform good practices and lessons learned into opportunities to fight hunger and malnutrition in the region and in Africa.

CERFAM is WFP's first Centre of Excellence in Africa. It follows WFP's previous successful experiences in Brazil and China.

It facilitates and mobilizes high-level expertise, promotes hunger and nutrition solutions, through proven practices, innovative approaches and pioneering networks and communities of practice connecting national, regional and international



## CERFAM's 2019 activities in pictures



The Regional Center of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) was inaugurated in Abidjan on **March 25, 2019**. It is the third center after those in China and Brazil. In the photo: the Vice President of Cote d'Ivoire, the King of Lesotho, the Executive Director of WFP, as well as many political and administrative figures.



First CERFAM Regional Concertation on the state of progress of the Roadmaps for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in Africa organized by CERFAM on **June 25, 2019**. For the participants in this concertation, union and coordination efforts will make it possible to achieve the nutritional and food security objectives for the populations.



The Princess of Jordan, Sarah Zeid, visited CERFAM on **July 20, 2019**, in the company of the Vice-President of Cote d'Ivoire and other authorities. This visit was part of a tour of the Sahel countries, with a view to raising awareness of the situation in this area and the contribution that CERFAM could make in promoting innovative solutions and good practices against hunger and malnutrition.



As a prelude to a capacity building mission for Congolese producers in cassava processing (**11 Nov to 16 Dec**), a delegation of experts from the Ministry of Agriculture of Cote d'Ivoire, led by CERFAM, carried out a preparatory mission to identify needs and logistics. In the picture, the family photo of the Ivorian delegation and CERFAM with the Congolese Minister of Agriculture.



The various partners and actors involved in the research and implementation of innovative technologies, took advantage of a workshop organized in Abidjan by CERFAM, to visit the International Exhibition of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Abidjan (SARA 2019). They've discovered there productions, innovations and direct investment opportunities in the agricultural, animal, fishery and forestry sector of Cote d'Ivoire and the countries of the sub-region. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the government of Cote d'Ivoire and other partners, on the theme "Investing in good practices and innovative technologies to reduce post-harvest losses and help improve food security and nutrition". The workshop, which was held on **23 and 24 November 2019**, aimed to encourage discussions and the sharing of experiences between different actors in the agricultural sector.





# Enhanced partnership for better management of post-harvest losses in Africa

## CERFAM and its partners examined solutions to reduce post-harvest losses in Africa



CERFAM brought together political authorities and more than 70 experts during the workshop on the fight against post-harvest losses in Africa

*From cereals to vegetables, tubers and fruits, post-harvest losses represent a major issue in Africa and are estimated at 37% of the total production. At which stages do these losses occur? What are the solutions to address these challenges? These are some of the questions that CERFAM and its partners tried to address during a workshop held in Abidjan on 23rd and 24th November on the theme "Investing in good practices and innovative technologies to reduce post-harvest losses and help improve food security and nutrition."*

### **Possible solutions to better manage post-harvest losses**

This workshop, held on the sidelines of the 5th edition of the International Exhibition of Agriculture and Animal Resources (SARA), was co-organized by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, CERFAM and the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in China, in collaboration with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Cooperation Centre in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD).

This high-level event brought together more than 70 experts and representatives from various governments, international and non-governmental organizations, regional economic communities, financial institutions, development partners as well as farmers' organizations, women and youth organizations, the media, universities and research institutes, and the private sector.

The objective of the workshop was to encourage exchanges and to share experiences between the various actors engaged in the research for innovative technologies

and good practices to reduce post-harvest losses.

The discussions also focused on strengthening the management of post-harvest losses and their impact on food security and nutrition. At the end of the workshop, a final communiqué highlighting the key messages was shared with the participants and other relevant stakeholders. The following major recommendations were made:

1. Governments are encouraged to intervene, direct and invest significantly in order to effectively manage post-harvest losses, given their huge human, economic and social costs and their negative impact on the food security and nutrition of rural communities, which rely mainly on agriculture. This requires concerted actions, a renewed and significant support from partners to governments for the formulation of required policies and the implementation of adequate measures as well as for capacity strengthening at all levels.
2. Given the global awareness on the devastating effects of food loss and waste, poorly controlled demographic growth, rapid and massive urbanization and migration crises, the transformation of food systems in Africa must take into account political, economic, social and cultural challenges and dimensions and their long-term effects on climate change, ecosystems and people's wellbeing.
3. Africa is full of good practices and endogenous solutions which deserve to be better recognized

and valued. The identification, dissemination, replicability and scaling up of good practices offer real opportunities by investing in research and expertise and in the development of knowledge management platforms and their easy access, networks of specialists and communities of practice that meet the needs of different stakeholders.

4. Governments and development partners are called upon to promote the scaling up of affordable post-harvest technologies and techniques in Africa, enabling smallholders, traders and agro-processors to benefit from them. Simple and accessible technical solutions should be identified and promoted, capitalizing on the promotion of communities of practice that facilitate access to knowledge at local level. Local conditions, learning and absorption capacities should be taken into consideration to develop engaging and inclusive participatory methods which facilitate ownership and sustainability of new technologies and techniques, especially by women, young people and the disabled.

5. National governments and development partners are encouraged to invest in improving information and knowledge management, capitalize on the potential of technology by leveraging the potential of digital solutions and recognize that promoting agro-digital solutions can be a means of attracting young people to agriculture.

6. Governments, regional institutions and partners would benefit from investing in initiatives aimed at filling the gap in data collection and developing reliable methodologies and tools to identify constraints and bottlenecks related to assessment of qualitative and quantitative losses, and their

links with food security and nutrition. Resource mobilization is crucial for fully capturing all types of losses and generating solid evidence-based assessments on the impact of post-harvest losses on food security and nutrition.

7. It is necessary to attract investments from the private sector to contribute to developing and implementing sustainable and effective post-harvest solutions in Africa, which promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, facilitate and expand trade and markets, and strengthen the productive workforce while making profits. To do this, it will be critical to mobilize not only resources from the private sector, but also from market forces to enhance and support socio-economic development and better articulate the opportunities that attract private sector actors.

8. There is an urgent need to invest in education and increase public awareness, including our future generations, on post-harvest losses, food waste and waste management in order to raise awareness of their harmful impacts on income, nutritional status and well-being and promote the adoption of behaviors that do not jeopardize ecosystems.



*For experts presents at the workshop, Africa is full of endogenous good practices and expertise related to post-harvest losses management and agriculture which should be better recognized, scaled up and shared.*





## « What was said... »



**Daniel Kablan Duncan, vice-president of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire:**

*"... In Côte d'Ivoire, data indicate a reduction in the prevalence of moderate food insecurity to 10.8% in 2018 and the elimination of the severe form of food insecurity, the reduction in the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 from 29.8% in 2012 to 21.6% in 2016. I reiterate Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to fight hunger and malnutrition in collaboration with the countries of the region, in order to make progress towards the implementation of the Malabo Declaration of the African Union by 2025 and the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".*



**S.E.M. Josephine Kala, African Union representative in Côte d'Ivoire:**

*"... Partners must help the African Union Commission (AUC) to transform the strategies adopted by its Member States to advance the implementation of the post-harvest loss reduction strategy on the continent".*



**M. Issa Sanogo, Director of CERFAM**

*"...At a time of general mobilization to combat food losses and waste, there is an urgent need to transform food systems to make them more effective and efficient. Africa is full of innovative experiences that deserve to be harnessed, and better access to information and expertise are the cornerstones for the continent".*



**Mr. Wu Lifeng, Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs:**

*" The success factors that helped achieve food security and contributed to rural development in China, have been the development of policies and reforms and appropriate support measures, including the selection of new crop varieties or the expansion of mechanization and technology. After reducing its dependence on imports, China became a donor of food aid in 2002".*

### CERFAM facilitates the transfer of skills and knowledge between Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin



The beneficiaries of the Congo carefully observe the manufacture of the attiéké with the experts from the Côte d'Ivoire

Following a request from WFP Congo, CERFAM has facilitated institutional and technical cooperation between the governments of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin aimed to optimize the cassava value chain by sharing on the ground Ivorian and Beninese experience and know-how to benefit Congolese smallholder farmers.

#### The importance of experience sharing for beneficiaries

"This training is timely because it will allow us to increase our production capacities, which is crucial to ensure adequate and regular supply of nutritious cassava-based products for the community-based school feeding programme. We thank WFP and CERFAM," said one of the trainees.

"With the training, smallholder farmers will increase their productivity and incomes, in particular women's organizations, while strengthening links between cassava producers and processors", added another trainee.

Following a request from WFP Congo, CERFAM has facilitated institutional and technical cooperation between the governments of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin aimed to optimize the cassava value chain by sharing on the ground Ivorian and Beninese experience and know-how to benefit Congolese smallholder farmers.

From November 11 to December 16, 2019, sixty members belonging to 12 women's cooperatives and farmers in the Bouenza region in Congo received training in the manufacture of high-quality machines and tools for the transformation of cassava into attiéké and gari.

Cassava remains one of the most consumed foods in West and Central Africa thanks to its availability and the diversified range of processed products it offers, which include flour, semolina, starch, making it possible to obtain several byproducts including attiéké and gari. The gari and attiéké obtained from cassava semolina are still produced by traditional means in the Congo.

As part of this initiative, CERFAM mobilized six experts from Côte d'Ivoire and Benin including two women highly qualified in cassava processing to strengthen the capacities smallholder farmers, mainly women in innovative techniques for processing cassava in Congo.

For Mr. Sidimé Yacouba, Ivorian expert from the Ivorian Society of Tropical Technology (I2T) and trainer who participated in the mission: "The use of new technologies allows producers to save time and contributes to greater availability of quality cassava products at more affordable prices".

CERFAM remains committed to supporting the exchange process between these three countries and intends to capitalize on the lessons learned from this initiative to guide its future actions.



# Managing post-harvest losses in Africa

## Excellent opportunities for partnership with the African Union Commission



The AU has a post-harvest loss management strategy, developed in collaboration with partners.

In September 2019, CERFAM took part in the second All Africa Post-harvest Congress and Exhibition organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Director of CERFAM, with support from WFP liaison office to the AU, took advantage of this opportunity to meet some of the highest authorities of the AUC in particular the Vice-President of the Commission, the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, the Commissioner for Social Affairs and several Division Directors.

### Common interest in food security and nutrition in Africa

During the various meetings, the AUC expressed great interest in CERFAM, the first centre of its kind in Africa which aims to help accelerate the achievement of Zero Hunger. The Centre of Excellence intends to support the efforts already made by the AU, its Member States and regional economic communities, to unlock and harness the continent's huge human, social and economic capital.

The rich exchanges held resulted in a series of action points to move the collaboration between CERFAM and the AUC forward:

1. Present CERFAM as an opportunity to contribute to the implementation of some of the AU commitments and strategies;
2. Explore opportunities for partnerships between CERFAM and research institutions, Pan African universities and other exchange networks and;
3. Support the efforts of AU Member States in the priority areas of intervention particularly food security and nutrition in the achievement of Agenda 2063, the Malabo

Declaration, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the post-harvest loss management strategy.

### Outline of Some AU Food Security and Nutrition Programmes and Strategies

#### Malabo statement from the African Union (AU) on post-harvest losses

The AU launched on January 30, 2014 "the Year of Agriculture and Food Security" marking the 10th anniversary of the CAADP at its 22nd Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme: "Transformation of African agriculture for shared prosperity and better living conditions".

Among recent commitments, AU Member States have pledged to end hunger by 2025 and halve current levels of post-harvest losses.

**Agenda 2063** aspires to "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development". To achieve this ambition, one of the main objectives is to ensure that its African citizens are healthy and well-nourished.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) sets the framework for African Union policy for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for everyone. This programme aims to improve agricultural yields to promote growth and poverty reduction given its direct impact on food security and improved nutrition.



## Conference of the Sector Network for Rural Development (SNRD)

### CERFAM: An innovation for documentation and dissemination of good practices



*Discussions focused on sharing agricultural experiences, approaches and innovations*

From October 28 to November 1, 2019, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) organized the Sector Network for Rural Development (SNRD) conference in Abidjan.

SNRD Africa is a network and a knowledge-sharing centre for local and international GIZ professionals working in the rural development sector in Africa.

The SNRD community brings together experts, governments representatives and practitioners driven by the firm resolve to share experiences, approaches and practical tools from the projects implemented, and to jointly develop the green portfolio of GIZ in Africa.

#### **The promotion of innovation at GIZ**

GIZ presented its innovative initiatives which have been tested within the framework of its projects as well as those tested by other actors in Africa. The discussions focused on initiatives with a strong potential for implementation across the continent, particularly through innovations, established and new partnerships, whether social, economic, political, technical or digital.

#### **An opportunity of visibility for CERFAM**

CERFAM presented its vision, mission, objectives and areas of intervention to more than 200 participants from more than 33 African countries. On the sidelines of this conference, an exhibition was organized to allow the participating organizations to present their respective innovations. CERFAM was presented as an initiative that could contribute to rural development in Africa.

With a view to strengthening partnerships, CERFAM, in collaboration with WFP Côte d'Ivoire, welcomed on October 31st, 2019, 23 GIZ experts to exchange experiences on how to define and identify objective criteria that can guide the selection of good practices in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Good practices represent a key component of the knowledge exchange digital platform that CERFAM is in the process of establishing.

### UPCOMING NEWS

⇒ **5<sup>th</sup> African School Feeding Day.** This annual event was instituted in January 2016 by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in recognition of the immense value of school feeding based on local purchases. The day is celebrated on March 1 of each year by African countries.

**Date: March 2020**

⇒ 1st anniversary of the **launch** of **CERFAM**. On March 25, 2019, the Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Africa was officially launched. It was in Abidjan, in the presence of the Ivorian vice-president, Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, the king of Lesotho, His Majesty Letsie III, champion of nutrition of the African Union (AU), and the executive director of the WFP, David Beasley.

**Date: mars 2020**

## CERFAM's team Retreat

Review of activities, prospects for 2020 and team building were part of the Agenda of the CERFAM's first Retreat



The staff took advantage of the retreat to discuss the achievements obtained in 2019 and identified the opportunities and priorities to come for 2020

Six months after its official launch, CERFAM staff gathered in Grand-Bassam to take stock of the Centre's activities and discuss the prospects for 2020. The retreat offered a good occasion to examine the achievements of 2019, identify the opportunities and define priorities to guide the planning for 2020, taking into account national, regional and global perspectives.

The fruitful exchanges during the two-day retreat allowed to:

- ⇒ Review the progress made on food security and nutrition at national, regional and global levels;
- ⇒ Identify opportunities to strengthen CERFAM's positioning in support of national and regional priorities with a clear service offer that capitalizes on the added value of the Centre and reinforced synergies and complementarities with partners;
- ⇒ Identify the priority lines of action for 2020, in connection with the thematic areas related to nutrition, integrated community resilience, rural development and post-harvest losses, home-grown school feeding, women's empowerment and youth employment;
- ⇒ Explore opportunities for strategic and operational partnerships and mobilization of resources to ensure the effective functioning of CERFAM.

⇒ Identify strategic, operational and fiduciary risks that could hinder CERFAM's action as well as mitigation measures.

The retreat was also an opportunity for the review of all the strategic documents to guide CERFAM's action which are being finalized namely the Strategic Plan, the Partnerships Action Plan, the Communication and Advocacy Strategy as well as the 2019 Annual Report.

The recommendations stemming from the discussions will serve as a basis for the preparation of CERFAM's 2020 work plan.





## Welcome to new staff



**Michael GANDJI LOKO KACOU** joined CERFAM's office as an **IT operations associate** on **December 2, 2019**. Michael obtained a computer engineering degree from HETEC Abidjan and a telecommunications degree from ITES, Abidjan.



**Igor BAZEMO** joined CERFAM as **Program Officer** on **December 5, 2019**. Igor holds a Master in Political Science and International Relations from La Sapienza University in Rome and a Master in Political Science from the University Paris 1-Sorbonne, France.



**Marina MEA DIBY** joined the CERFAM office as **Communication Officer** on **December 9, 2019**. Marina holds a Master in Information and Communication Sciences from Michel de Montaigne University, Bordeaux 3, in France, and a diploma in Business Administration from the International University of Agadir (Universiapolis) in Morocco.

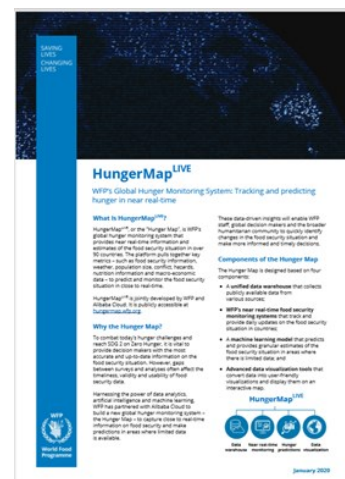
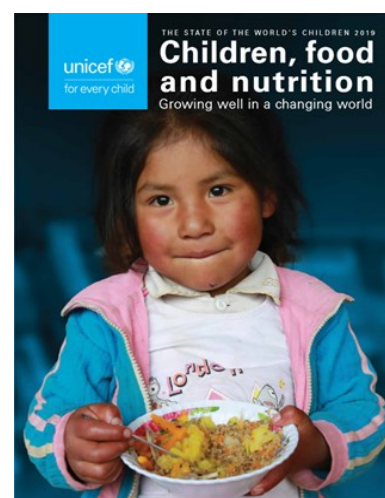


**Awa COULIBALY** took office at CERFAM as **Business Support Assistant** on **December 15, 2019**. She holds a Bachelor Business Marketing from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia and a Master in Business Management from the Bangalore management Academy in India.



**Nafi Aisha DIOP** joined CERFAM as **Quality Assurance and Food Safety Project Manager** on **January 13, 2020**. She holds a double engineering degree in International Agro-Development from the International Agro-Development Engineering School and in Sustainable Agricultural & Agri-Food Systems Specializing in Montpellier Agrifood Industries.

# Some books recommended for reading



Here is a list of publications that you can add to your list of books to read to learn more about these hot topics. **CERFAM** is happy to share with you information relating to food security and nutrition, zero hunger, south south cooperation, etc.

Good reading !

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