

CERFAM'S BULLETIN

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**STRENGTHENING
RESILIENCE TO
ACHIEVE ZERO
HUNGER IN AFRICA**



UNION - DISCIPLINE - TRAVAIL

CERFAM
CENTRE D'EXCELLENCE REGIONAL
CONTRE LA FAIM ET LA MALNUTRITION



World Food
Programme

EDITORIAL



In Africa, the food and agriculture sectors are among the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of disasters and crises.

Drought, floods, epidemics and conflicts undermine countries efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to achieve sustainable development. Over the past ten years, natural disasters have caused damage estimated at nearly US\$1.3 billion and affected 2.7 billion people worldwide¹. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report – 2021 – reveals that countries affected by a combination of multiple factors as well as countries affected by conflict have some of the highest percentages of populations unable to access healthy and healthy food, therefore in a situation of moderate or severe food insecurity: nearly 928 million people in a situation of severe food insecurity in 2020, 148 million more than in 2019².

In Africa, the food and agriculture sectors are among the most vulnerable to the negative repercussions of disasters and crises, to which has been added, since February 27, 2020, the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

This pandemic and the measures implemented to slow its spread are affecting and disrupting food systems including the production, storage, marketing, processing and distribution of agricultural and food products.

Faced with these crises, forging partnerships between governments, international organizations, private sector, and communities, and acting in a more coordinated manner are essential to urgently save human lives, the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people and build the resilience of populations, mainly small farmers, entrepreneurs, and their families whose livelihoods depend on rain-fed agriculture and who are most threatened by climate change. This eighth bulletin presents some initiatives aimed at building resilience on the continent.

Strengthening resilience is one of the priorities of the World Food Programme (WFP), which has expanded its humanitarian assistance mission to include assistance to communities and governments to strengthen their resilience to shocks and reduce their vulnerability to future stresses. For WFP and its partners in the Sahel region, making populations resilient in the face of various disasters and crises is an essential condition for promoting sustainable development. WFP has thus launched programmes for a change in the operationalization of the resilience approach (page 18), and has also approached universities, by creating a Network of Sahel Universities for Resilience (REUNIR). This Network serves as a common reflection platform on the resilience of populations, facing many challenges including high levels of food insecurity, limited and unequal access to basic services, poorly integrated markets, recurrent climate shocks and increased insecurity.

The African Union (AU) is also working to strengthen community resilience, through its Development Agency and New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), through initiatives implemented in the region to accelerate local African solutions that improve the resilience of health systems to pandemics and other shocks. On page 12 of this bulletin, you will learn about the key initiatives prioritized by the AU to support the recovery from COVID-19 and create the necessary structures to mitigate the impact of future pandemics, and firmly put the continent back on the development path towards Agenda 2063.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the most fertile countries on the planet, but exposed to climate risks and conflicts, people are facing the world's largest food crisis. Since 2016, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and their government partners and other organizations have implemented an integrated project aimed at strengthening the resilience of communities in the province of Tanganyika, to ease tensions between communities and strengthen social cohesion and stability (page 10).

Community resilience is one of the areas of intervention of the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM). In collaboration with the Alliance Française de formation et de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'environnement et la santé mondiale (Agreenium), CERFAM organized a webinar on October 5, 2021, which brought together high-level experts from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the NGO Action Against Hunger, WFP, and the Niger Farmer Platform. On page 8, you will read the challenges noted by the panelists, challenges faced by African farmers including small producers, and good practices and opportunities that can help improve the lives of vulnerable rural populations.

Building resilience requires an in-depth analysis of the capacities of communities to bounce back from a disaster, conflict, or shock, to address inherent vulnerabilities and enable these communities to mitigate risks in the future. Build resilience to achieve the zero-hunger goal and improve the situation of communities is possible in Africa, through community participation, strategic and operational partnerships, as well as good coordination.

Enjoy your reading.

1 <https://www.fao.org/resilience/contexte/fr/>
2 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb5409fr/cb5409fr.pdf>

SUMMARY

01 / P.04

Building resilience for zero hunger in Africa: introduction to WFP's scaling up resilience in the Sahel programme

Article written by Resilience and Livelihoods Unit, Regional Bureau for Western in Africa, Dakar

02 / P.06

Promoting a better integrated approach to reinforce resilience in West and Central Africa

03 / P.8

Promoting robust local food systems and resilience among rural populations in Africa

04 / P.10

Some good practices in building community resilience in the Tanganyika province, the DRC

+ FOLDER / P.13

African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) initiatives to accelerate local African solutions that improve health systems resilience to pandemics and other shocks

Article written by, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

05 / P.17

Policies and strategies to improve the resilience of families and small farm producers

+ Interview with Mr. Younoussa MBALLO / **Technical Consultant at the Ministry of Agriculture and of Rural Equipment, and National Coordinator for PROVALE (Projet de Valorisation des Eaux pour le Développement des Chaînes de Valeur)**

06 / P.20

Sahel universities for building resilience in West Africa



ABOUT CERFAM

The Regional Centre against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) is the result of a strategic partnership agreement between the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the World Food Program (WFP) to support African countries in elimination of hunger and malnutrition. The Regional Centre against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) is the result of a strategic partnership agreement between the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the World Food Program (WFP) to support African countries in elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

CERFAM is a platform for exchange, partnership, and cooperation, which allows countries to have access to the best available expertise to support them in their efforts to progress towards the implementation of the SDGs, in particular SDG 2.

CERFAM facilitates and mobilizes skills, promotes and implementation of good practices and sustainable solutions in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Its mission is carried out through innovative approaches and the networking of national, regional and international actors in order to produce tangible and lasting results.

Based on its 4 pillars of research, advocacy and communication, partnerships and technical assistance, CERFAM's interventions take advantage of South-South Cooperation and capacity building to support national and regional priorities in the area of food security and nutrition.

Priority areas of action for CERFAM:

- + Support to governments, institutions and partners in the formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring of food and nutrition security policies and interventions.
- + Support for national school feeding programs based on local purchases in support of social safety nets and the development of the local economy.
- + Strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities and local systems to cope with cyclical and recurring shocks.
- + Prioritization of multisectoral and innovative nutrition strategies that are part of a sustainable food system.
- + Optimization of the food value chain and support for the development of efficient and sustainable supply systems to benefit the incomes of small producers.



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01 BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR ZERO HUNGER IN AFRICA: INTRODUCTION TO WFP'S SCALING UP RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL PROGRAMME

The Sahelian countries commonly known as the G5 Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger – form a vast geographic belt of territories, marked by persistently high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, limited and unequal access to basic services, poorly integrated markets, rising insecurity, and recurrent shocks. Severe weather fluctuations compound on the increasingly scarcer availability of key livelihood resources and disrupt the delicate balance between farmers and herders sharing water and grazing lands.

In this context, a healthy natural environment is the very foundation for many people's food security and livelihoods, and thus the building block for their resilience to shocks and long-term stressors. But when lands are stripped of their vegetative cover and fertile topsoil, they become unable to withstand rains, winds and droughts. Such land degradation sets in motion a vicious cycle that makes lands extremely fragile and unable to withstand even normal climatic patterns. In response to these multifaceted challenges, since 2018, WFP, in collaboration with governments and partners, has been scaling up resilience interventions in the Sahel region, supporting vulnerable communities with an innovative integrated package of activities is implemented across the region, combining assets creation, school feeding, nutrition interventions, access to markets and capacity strengthening.

From September 2020 to February 2021, more than 1.9 million people have benefitted from WFP's integrated resilience activities across the

region. 380,000 children at school benefitted from nutritious school meals, 555,000 children and women from malnutrition treatment and prevention support and 13,000 people were trained, including smallholder farmers, cooperating partners, government staff and community committees.



+1,9 MILLION PEOPLE

beneficiating from WFP's resilience activities in the region.

The Sahel is far from being defeated and harbours enormous potential for positive transformation. Since the beginning of the scale-up in 2018, WFP together with the communities rehabilitated nearly 109,000 hectares of degraded land for pasture and croplands development, created more than 1,850 hectares of horticulture gardens to produce fresh vegetables and fruits, built 480 wells, 1,115 ponds and 180 boreholes to enhance access to water for productive purposes and income generation, particularly for women groups.

Based on a participatory planning approach at the terroir level, WFP and its cooperating partners have been accompanying communities in rehabilitating lands and ecosystems through



+109 000 HECTARES OF DEGRADED LAND

rehabilitated by WFP
and communities for the
development of pastures
and cultivated lands

asset creation at community and household level. Increased productivity then enables populations to fully feed their families and often also to augment their incomes through market sales of transformed produce, making them more resilient to seasonal stressors and shocks that may come their way in the future. In addition to these rehabilitation activities, the integrated resilience package also includes the provision of nutritious school meals, preferably locally produced, which have a positive impact on students' ability to concentrate and succeed, as well as on attendance rates, especially for girls. Moreover, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions reduce malnutrition and promote availability and consumption of nutritious foods.

Restoring landscapes and people coming together throughout the process also has the potential to ease conflict between those who want to graze livestock and those who want to grow food. Resilience building activities can serve as a buffer to instability by strengthening solidarity between people, creating social safety nets, keeping lands productive and offering economic opportunities. When parched landscapes are worked to yield grass or crops, children are at school, youth find jobs without embarking on unsafe migration, women are able to find water and irrigate vegetable gardens, and whole communities come together, addressing land degradation can go much further than greening landscapes and truly change lives.



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Article written by Resilience and Livelihoods Unit,
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02 PROMOTING A BETTER INTEGRATED APPROACH TO REINFORCE RESILIENCE IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

People around the world are increasingly exposed to natural disasters and to health, social, economic, and political crises. In West and Central Africa, the recurrence and intensity of the shocks and stresses are affecting the food security and nutritional status of populations, particularly rural populations, and vulnerable groups, and is disrupting food systems. Food systems, particularly agricultural value chains, are disrupted by climate change, natural disasters, armed conflicts, as well as by socio-political upheavals.

A successful partnership to promote resilience in the region

As part of its mission to assist African countries and partners towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal # 2, CERFAM is supporting government efforts to identify the gaps as well as the opportunities aimed at strengthening resilience initiatives that will transform the country's food systems.

In order to adopt a systemic approach and to address the structural and sustainable challenges of resilience in West and Central Africa, CERFAM collaborated with the Economic and Political Development (EPD) workshop at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) of Columbia University in the United States to conduct a study with the goals of coming up with an integrated resilience strategy for the region's governments and examining the root causes for the need of an integrated resilience program.

To do this, CERFAM and SIPA developed an analytical framework to examine best resilience practices and to create a tool that governments and their partners can use at both national and regional levels. This framework facilitates the analysis of conditions that compete to create a favorable environment for programming resilience and to learn lessons from previous resilience programs in these regions.

Promising resilience programs and initiatives in West and Central Africa

The analytical framework has brought to light several relevant initiatives, notably:

- + Resilience initiatives that strengthen information systems, such as the *Cadre Harmonisé*, a regional tool developed to prevent food crises by providing early warning signals to quickly identify the affected populations and to propose appropriate measures to improve their food and nutritional security.
- + The USAID program "Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis", a series of directives on how to best target vulnerable communities to integrate, sequence and layer resilience activities, while emphasizing the importance of empowering women in areas where crises are recurrent.
- + The "WFP and OXFAM R4 Rural Resilience Initiative", currently underway in six African countries, which aims at helping communities strengthen their resilience in the face of climate variability and shocks and increase their food security and income in the face of increasing climate risks.

The ineffectiveness of resilience initiatives on the ground

According to the results of the analytical framework, resilience initiatives are still limited, because of their partitioning and the lack of coordination mechanisms needed to ensure their sustainability and their capacity to address the underlying issues of development and long term resilience. For example, until recently, resilience programs were mostly focused on the capacity of communities to recover from shocks, which does not necessarily indicate that the communities are better equipped to deal with the next shock or stress.

How to move forward with resilience initiatives in West and Central Africa?

The analytical framework proposes three principles of resilience measures that key players can adopt to increase resilience at each stage of the agricultural value chain:

- + >> **Principle 1** : strengthening resilience leads to development, which means addressing the root causes of vulnerability, the uppermost consideration in the design of interventions;
- + >> **Principle 2** : resilience is the process and outcome of increasing capacities to mitigate, adapt and to recover from shocks;
- + >> **Principle 3** : resilience must be multisectoral and long term; one of the main factors in successful resilience programs is the adoption of a "participatory approach" which includes the target populations in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the program.



In West and Central Africa, the recurrence and intensity of shocks affect food security and the nutritional status of populations, especially rural populations, and vulnerable groups.

In order to operationalize this analytical framework in West and Central Africa, governments, multilateral organizations, local authorities, and civil society organizations, who are the main players, must work together to build resilience.



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03 PROMOTING ROBUST LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS AND RESILIENCE AMONG RURAL POPULATIONS IN AFRICA

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to re-assess and transform the way our food is produced and consumed.

The combined impacts of this health, social and economic crisis point to the need for measures to establish sustainable world-wide systems of production, processing and consumption that contribute to the right to adequate nutrition for all.

A webinar to promote sustainable food systems and resilience of rural populations

On 5 October 2021, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) and the Alliance Française de formation et de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'environnement et la santé mondiale (Agreenium) held a webinar on the following theme: **Robust local food systems and resilience of rural populations: what role for African smallholders and farmers? (Systèmes alimentaires locaux robustes et résilience des populations rurales : quel rôle pour les petits exploitants et agriculteurs africains ?)**. This webinar was the second of a series that the two organizations had planned for 2021-2022 on topics related to food security, nutrition, and food systems.

The goal of this second webinar, which was attended by close to a hundred people involved in the field, was (i) to review the challenges faced by the African farmers, particularly smallholders, (ii) to assess good practices and opportunities in order to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable rural populations, (iii) to increase

the participation rate of small producers in the food processing systems, (iv) to foster partnerships to advocate for the cause and increase investments to support the resilience of small-scale producers in Africa.

A committed panel of experts

The webinar allowed participants to benefit from the expertise and experience of Mr. Amath Pathé SENE, Côte d'Ivoire Country Director, Director of the Coastal countries Hub at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Mr. Adamou OUNTENI ISSAKA, Principal Advisor on Resilience, West Africa Regional Bureau, at the Dakar World Food Programme (WFP) office, Mr. Mamadou Diop, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa for Action Against Hunger, and Mr. BAGNA Djibo, Honorary President of the Niger Farmer Platform, who shared their thoughts on sustainable food systems and population resilience.

Bottlenecks and some solutions to build resilience of rural populations in Africa

While recalling the consequences of COVID-19 on family farming in Africa, and the immediate measures that can mitigate the socio-economic impact on rural communities, each panelist suggested potential solutions to strengthen long-term resilience among the rural populations in Africa. For Mr. Adamou ISSAKA of the WFP, it means, among other things, to increase and diversify agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and fishery productions, or even to support conservation, processing, and fortification to

increase the availability of micronutrient-rich foods throughout the entire year. According to Mr. Djibo, many small farmers lack the infrastructure needed to store their harvest; it is important to improve these infrastructures (storage, transport, sanitation...) needed for agricultural production, to prevent post-harvest losses. Mr. Diop suggested the creation and improvement of processing units and of market economy systems as well as the revitalization of markets that have been impacted by the combined effects of multiple crises (climate change, COVID-19, conflicts, and migrations). For Mr. Amath Pathé SENE, small-scale farmers are the heart of the food processing systems, and targeted and massive investments are needed to reach the Sustainable Development Objectives and the Paris Climate Accord.

The panelists also offered other solutions, including:

- + Improve the resilience of populations to shocks resulting from climate change, crisis and disasters, in order to improve the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms in emergency situations, to provide responses that are adapted to the emergency situations and to contribute to the restoration of ecosystems, the promotion of climate-sensitive agricultural techniques, as well as green jobs

- + Strengthen the connection of rural populations using to modern technology

- + Improve the nutritional status of populations by improving the availability of, and access to, healthy, nutritious, and varied food diets; support food conservation, processing, and fortification to increase the availability of micronutrient-rich foods throughout the year

- + Support small producers and promote innovation and digitalization in agriculture

The third webinar in the series, for the promotion of food systems is scheduled for 2 November, on the topic of Food security and Nutrition for all in Africa: [How do we harness the potential of family farming to foster sustainability of food systems and work towards Zero Hunger in Africa?](#)





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04 SOME GOOD PRACTICES IN BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE TANGANYIKA PROVINCE, THE DRC

Food insecurity in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



27,3 MILLIONS PEOPLE

severely food insecure in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Despite being one of the most fertile lands on the planet, and despite its vast natural resources, the DRC faces the world's biggest food crisis. According to statistics³, 27.3 million people are currently undergoing severe food insecurity. The number of people affected in the Tanganyika province alone is 1.2 million. The country east continues to experience prolonged conflicts causing large-scale population displacement that disrupts agricultural activities and hinder access to markets, schools, and health care services.

An integrated and complementary approach to building resilience among small-holder farmers in the DRC

To address Tanganyika's enormous needs, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) implemented, from 2016 to 2021, a joint WFP-FAO resilience program to build the value chain for small-holder farmers in the DRC. This integrated program, put in place with the government and partners, including national and international organizations, is assisting 18,000 households, for a total of almost 90,000 people, with interventions combining technical, financial, and social components.

The WFP-FAO joint programme: a good practice

Early in 2021, the WFP in the DRC and CERFAM began documenting this programme to have it validated as a good practice which meets the criteria of success for its strengthening of agri-food value chains for small-scale farmers. To do this, the programme was submitted for analysis and evaluation to the CERFAM Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEPT), a digital compilation of Central Africa's best practices and innovations.

3 According to the results of the 19th Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) in the DRC



The analysis was carried out by a committee of four experts from the WFP Regional Office for West Africa, Action against Hunger and from the CSIR-Savanna Agricultural Research Institute of Ghana, who considered the nine criteria for evaluating a good practice as listed in the CERFAM good practice guide: Effectiveness, Efficiency, Relevance, Feasibility, Innovation and Learning, Sustainability and Scaling-Up, Accountability (good governance and transparency), Replicability and Adaptability, Partnership and Multisectorality. Specifically, in terms of:



Efficiency

nearly all the links in the value chain are considered when implementing the project and the basic causes and obstacles to food security are assessed thoroughly.



Effectiveness

most of the activities are implemented as planned and adequate measures are taken to take corrective actions when needed.



Relevance

project activities focused on farming, which is the main source of subsistence in Tanganyika, and are well adapted to the context of the project zones; the conflict factor was largely considered as a major obstacle to food security and the resilience of target groups.



Feasibility

the simplicity and relevance of the approach is an important factor in allowing efficient implementation of project activities and growing involvement from the main target groups in the activities.



Innovation and Learning

the joint program places a particular emphasis on peace and social cohesion. The complementary collaboration between the FAO and the WFP could pave the way for a larger partnership with other United Nations agencies.



Sustainability and Scaling-Up

local community involvement in project implementation from the very beginning was increased, thereby contributing to the project sustainability effect.



Replicability and Adaptability

the project was successfully replicated in other regions of the country.



Accountability

sources of funding are well indicated; the targeting process is well described; a management unit was set up.



Partnership and Multisectorality

the involvement of the local community through the «cash for work» activity is effective, and the collectivities and local authorities are also involved from beginning to end.

A few key outcomes of the joint WFP-FAO programme in the DRC

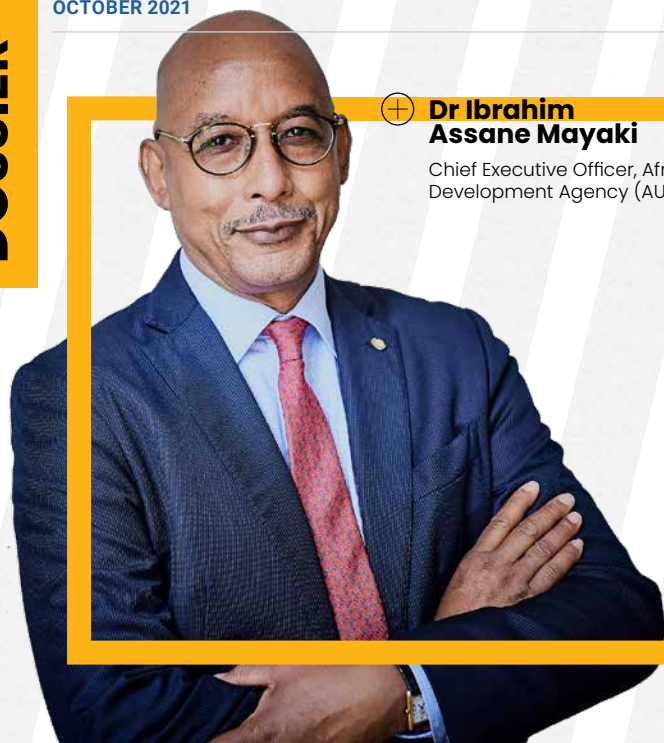
This joint WFP-FAO programme combined key interconnected activities which integrate cross-cutting dimensions, especially the consolidation of peace and conflict resolution, gender equality, empowerment of women and financial inclusion. Overall, the program led to the easing of tensions between communities, strengthening of social cohesion and stability, and to the re-establishment of trust among communities. Over the 2016-2020 period, the project enabled, among other things, the support of community organizations through the implementation and capacity building of 720 farming organizations; the increased farm production and value chain development; improved management of post-harvest losses and access to markets; gender equality and empowerment of women; increased economic capacity and economic inclusion of target groups.

Successful factors from the programme in building resilience.



Overall, several aspects of the programme were assessed by the committee of experts as being good practices that were successful in the following areas:

- the high number of performance indicators achieved and reported in the program progress reports ;
- the capacity for the program to improve revenues, food security and nutrition in a sustainable way ;
- cross-cutting aspects of the project: gender, social inclusion and empowerment, peace building and conflict resolution to achieve development that is sustainable for current and future generations ;
- convincing proof of the program's early warning solutions and conflict resolution measures at the community level;
- well-structured internal mechanisms to evaluate the progress of the program and to take corrective actions at the input and deliverable levels of the activities ;
- a strong sense of accountability and good partner involvement in program implementation.



⊕ **Dr Ibrahim
Assane Mayaki**

Chief Executive Officer, African Union
Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

AUDA-NEPAD initiatives that improve the resilience of health systems to pandemics and other shocks.

Health system resilience is the inbuilt capacity of the system to sustain the provision of essential health and health related services even when challenged by outbreaks, disasters, or other shocks.

Over the last 22 months, the Covid-19 pandemic presented the world with an unprecedented health security threat of our time. The Coronavirus demonstrated the global community's glaring fragilities in health systems resilience, food security, trade, industrialisation, access to medicines and pharmaceutical products, and other vital sectors necessary to support healthy, prosperous lives for humanity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought serious economic and social crises in Africa. World Bank estimates suggest that the contraction in economic output will increase the number of Africans living below the international poverty line by 26 million people. To curb the spread of the virus, Government-led restrictions have resulted in widespread devastation in Africa's food supply - which relies on the import of 85 per cent of its food from outside the continent.

Although Africa has made significant progress in health care, we are cognisant of the pre-pandemic challenges that plague Africa's health systems. These challenges are evidenced by the relatively low levels of Universal Health Coverage witnessed across the continent. In addition to revealing the fragility of Africa's health systems, the pandemic has demonstrated the stark inequalities between countries regarding access to quality healthcare services.

**COVID-19,
A BIG CHALLENGE
FOR AFRICA'S HEALTH
SYSTEMS**



**+26 MILLION
AFRICANS**
living below the
international
poverty line due
to COVID-19

**KEY AUDA-NEPAD
INITIATIVES
TO STRENGTHEN
RESILIENCE TO HEALTH
PANDEMICS**


A critical challenge during the pandemic has been the limited capacity to manufacture vaccines in a region that is home to 17 per cent of the world population but holds less than 1% of vaccine production capacity. Our inability to meet the vaccine and pharmaceutical demands during the pandemic highlights the continent's vulnerability to trade restrictions and global supply chain dynamics. As such, the past year saw vaccine nationalism turn to reality as nations sort after self-preservation at the expense of global health security. This self-preservation underscores the need for an African-led response to curb the adverse effects of over-reliance on global economic value chains.

But as with all socio-economic shocks, the pandemic has presented the continent with an opportunity to take stock of its strengths and weaknesses in order to recalibrate itself by developing innovative initiatives that will build the necessary shock absorbers needed to respond to pandemics, disasters, or other shocks effectively.

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is the implementing arm of the African Union, tasked with coordinating and executing priority regional and continental development projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063 – Africa's vision and action plan. Against this background, the Covid-19 era has presented the Agency with the enormous task of providing context-driven interventions that will fortify the continent's shock absorbers and pandemic response mechanisms.

Undoubtedly, a critical lesson during this era has been the need to nurture Afro-centric solutions that curb Africa's over reliance on a somewhat exogenous global economy. This feature is a distinguishing element in the Covid response initiatives currently being undertaken by AUDA-NEPAD.





To support the recovery from Covid-19 and create the necessary structures to mitigate the impact of future pandemics, AUDA-NEPAD has prioritised the following key initiatives to firmly place the continent back on its development path toward Agenda 2063.

INNOVATIVE DOMESTIC HEALTH FINANCING THROUGH THE REGIONAL HEALTH FINANCING HUBS

Under the directive of Africa's leaders, the Heads of State recognized the significant constraints in strengthening our health care systems due to low levels of investment in health. In light of this challenge, AUDA-NEPAD is coordinating the design and establishment of Regional Health Financing Hubs across Africa's 5 regions. The Regional Hubs aim to create an effective mechanism to coordinate, support, and steer momentum towards sustainable, sufficient, equitable and efficient investments in the health sector.

It is through the Regional Health Financing Hubs that Member States will receive the technical support required to drive the exploration and adoption of viable domestic financing mechanisms, as well as foster increased coherence of investment in health through the alignment of stakeholders' efforts to the health system priorities of the continent.

VACCINE MANUFACTURING

Africa has learnt the importance of investing and building its own capacity and capabilities for vaccine manufacturing since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Success in developing and providing access to a safe vaccine requires an innovative and collaborative approach, with significant local manufacturing in Africa. We need to support the contribution of African scientists and healthcare professionals. We need to act with urgency.

H.E.MR. CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AUDA-NEPAD is undertaking several initiatives to support vaccine manufacturing in Africa. For example, the Coalition for African Research and Innovation (CARI) is developing mechanisms to stimulate Member States, Private sector and philanthropy to intensify their support for vaccine manufacturing through increased investments in biomedical R &D within the health sector in Africa.

Additionally, AUDA-NEPAD is simultaneously working with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) through the Partnerships for Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa (PAVM), Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA), Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trial (CONCVACT) among other collaborations to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent and cultivate local manufacturing of vaccines.



THE AFRICAN DRUG REGULATION HARMONIZATION (AMRH) INITIATIVE

was launched by
AUDA-NEPAD to
secure access to
essential drugs and
technologies for
Africans

REGULATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

In 2009, AUDA-NEPAD pioneered the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) initiative to secure access to essential medicines and technologies for the African people. Guided by three focus areas: human and institutional capacity development, regional integration and harmonization, and policy alignment, the AMRH works with Member States to address challenges such as weak legislative frameworks, slow medicine registration processes, and limited technical capacity faced by National Medicine Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) in Africa.

Following the establishment of the AMRH, the African Union Assembly adopted the treaty to establish the African Medicines Agency (AMA) which aims to enhance regulatory oversight and address the challenges of access to quality, safe, and effective medicines on the continent. The integrity of Africa's regulatory frameworks will be a fundamental pre-requisite in ensuring ongoing health security for Africa's citizens.

HOMEGROWN SOLUTIONS

To expedite African-developed innovations that improve pandemic resilience, AUDA-NEPAD founded the Pandemic Resilience Accelerator for African Health-Related Businesses. The facility offers hands-on, bespoke acceleration programmes to support African health-related firms in the development and mature stages that are strengthening healthcare capacity or reducing dependency on global medical supply chains.



AUDA-NEPAD Development Fund

To expand and diversify the financial and technical resources available to support pandemic related responses and subsequently Africa's development toward the vision of Agenda 2063; AUDA-NEPAD has established the Development Fund, which aims to pool resources through flexible models for Africa's integrating projects and flagships.

The Development Fund seeks to narrow the resource gap through intelligent resource mobilization techniques such as innovative financing based on current trends. The set-up and operationalization of the AUDA-NEPAD Development Fund will play a complementary role in providing the African Union with broader options to finance development and critical continental priorities (such as pandemic responses), beyond the existing mechanisms.

AUDA-NEPAD recognises the enormous commitment required to build effective pandemic resilience mechanisms that will protect Africa's food security, health systems and industrialisation efforts. Ultimately, this task speaks directly to the Agency's overarching mandate, and AUDA-NEPAD is devoted to accelerating the development of effective pandemic response initiatives through the coordination and implementation of African-led and context-driven solutions.

Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency
(AUDA-NEPAD)

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE RESILIENCE OF FAMILIES AND SMALL FARM PRODUCERS

+ Interview with Mr. Younoussa MBALLO / **Technical Consultant at the Ministry of Agriculture and of Rural Equipment, and National Coordinator for PROVALE (Projet de Valorisation des Eaux pour le Développement des Chaînes de Valeur)**



05

1
THE GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED THE DAILY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF SENEGAL, ESPECIALLY THOSE ALREADY IN VERY VULNERABLE SITUATIONS. HAS THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKEN RESILIENCE SUPPORT PROGRAMMES TO HELP HOUSEHOLDS/COMMUNITIES DEAL WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19? IF YES, WHAT WERE THEIR REAL IMPACT ON THESE COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY ON SMALL FARMING PRODUCERS?

**1,000
BILLION
FCFA**

allocated to the response against COVID-19 by the Government of Senegal

The health crisis has evolved rapidly and worsened in a few months from an epidemiological stage to a pandemic affecting all the economies of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic started just when Senegal was recording economic and social growth in different sectors such as in agriculture, health, education and training, and access to basic social services.

To withstand the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, the government of Senegal implemented, in an inclusive manner, the Programme de Résilience Économique et Sociale (PRES), (Economic and Social Resilience Programme) with very short-term actions, with an emergency response fund called «Force COVID-19», for an amount of 1,000 billion CFA francs CFA, or 7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in order to relieve the most affected households and businesses directly affected by the shock..

More specifically, the Government of Senegal has set up the household resilience support program to deal with the socio-economic consequences of Covid-19, through the distribution of food and the payment of water and electricity bills. More than 1,100,000 families have benefited from the Government support of 69 billion CFA francs. To ensure the equitable distribution of food kits, the Government of Senegal used a database called le Registre National Unique (RNU), which is a dynamic database obtained through a process of identification and selection of households in poverty. These household support measures implemented by the Government have contributed significantly to strengthening the resilience of communities by limiting the negative effect of income losses, while helping them to maintain production activities.

To that end, the agricultural sector plays a key role in poverty reduction, food security and job creation. Thus, the Government has worked to implement, as a priority, actions for the development of hydro-agricultural developments in areas with high potential; accelerate the revival of horticulture; boost rice production to ensure rice self-sufficiency and strengthen value chains through the promotion of Resilient Family Farms (LFEs). This set of support measures is implemented through projects and programmes currently underway, such as the Water Valorization Project for the Development of Value Chains (PROVALE-CV) which supports 38,000 households, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP). To this end, the agricultural sector plays a key role in poverty reduction, food security and job creation. Thus, the government has worked to implement, as a priority, actions for the development of hydro-agricultural developments in areas with high potential; accelerate the revival of

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2

IT APPEARS THAT WOMEN ARE THE MOST AFFECTED PEOPLE DURING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISES.

WHAT EXPLAINS THIS? AND HOW DID THE GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL ANTICIPATE THIS SITUATION?

In general, women in Senegal, are the most vulnerable during socio-economic crises; that is because most of them work in sectors like farming, business, food processing and home services and which put them at a greater disadvantage because of their status; low levels of education and training, illiteracy, lack of collateral, and socio-cultural pressures. The economic sectors that are most impacted by the pandemic are those involving women workers, especially the informal economy, which does not provide adequate social protection benefits.

In Senegal, women are, in general, the most vulnerable to socio-economic crises; for good reason, they are mainly active in agriculture, trade, product processing activities and household services. To this end, they are the most disadvantaged because of their status: lack of time, low level of education and training, illiteracy, lack of collateral, and socio-cultural constraints. The economic sectors most affected by the pandemic employ a large majority of female workers, including the informal economy, so they do not benefit from adequate social protection.

Women are essential to the socio-economic development of Senegal as they represent 50.2 percent of the population. It is because of this that the government of Senegal has introduced methods and strategies to improve the resilience of women in times of socio-economic crises. Therefore, to take women's concerns seriously, the State of Senegal implemented several projects and programs such as the Projet d'Appui au Développement de l'Entreprenariat Féminin et de l'Emploi des Jeunes (PADEF-EJ) to improve the growth of women's agro-food processing enterprises. The State of Senegal has also established the Fonds National pour la Promotion de l'Entreprenariat Féminin (FNPEF) to promote women's businesses, to increase real or potential capacities for entrepreneurs and to provide access to funding. There is also the Fonds National de Crédit aux Femmes (FNCF) to improve women's self-promotion.



Women have been particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis, being on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic and often working in the informal sector.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. YOUNOUSSA MBALLO / TECHNICAL ADVISOR AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL EQUIPMENT

3
SENEGAL IS PART OF THE SAHEL REGION, SO IT IS SUBJECT TO THE RECURRENT EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WHICH IMPACT THE POPULATIONS LIVING IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. DOES SENEGAL HAVE A POLICY THAT ADDRESSES COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, ESPECIALLY THOSE LIVING IN ZONES VULNERABLE TO FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION?

Senegal is faced with the double challenges of increasing the populations' means of subsistence in dealing with climate change and of improving their living conditions, as well as food and nutritional security. In fact, we know that the agro-ecology zone in the Senegal River Delta (North) is the driest part of the country. Because of that, it is one of the regions that is most at risk for drought. Hence, the level of vulnerability is very high with acute malnutrition rates that regularly surpass the warning threshold.

The government of Senegal has designed policies and programs to improve family accessibility to diversified and nutritive diets combined with building population resilience and empowerment of vulnerable groups. These cover the entire national territory with a particular focus on the most vulnerable zones such as the one in the north.

Hence, the state has implemented actions through the: Politique nationale de développement de la nutrition (PNDN), Plan stratégique multisectoriel de la nutrition (PSMN), Stratégie nationale de sécurité alimentaire et de résilience (SNSAR), Programme de renforcement de la nutrition (PRN), as well as development policies for the agricultural sector in general.

The complementarity of these policies, projects and programs serves to support the local populations' capacity for resilience, to facilitate access to basic services, and to improved living conditions. The state is also assisted by non-governmental actors who establish seasonal social safety nets, allowing the most vulnerable households to have their basic food needs met during the lean season.



The State of Senegal implements policies, projects and programmes that help support the capacity of resilience of local populations.

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06 SAHEL UNIVERSITIES FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE IN WEST AFRICA

The Sahel is the region of West Africa that faces recurrent problems of food and nutrition insecurity, degradation of natural resources and climate change. The Sahel is also a region of Africa that has experienced the largest increase in hunger over the past decade. Despite continued efforts by governments and partners to address food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel, an estimated 29.2 million people are food insecure, including 9.4 million who are severely food insecure and at risk of extreme dietary deficits⁴.

The need for a global, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach introduced by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Aware that deep and lasting transformations cannot be achieved by a single entity, WFP has initiated strategic partnerships under a comprehensive, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, necessary to support communities facing multiple risks and vulnerabilities.

It is therefore in the spirit of capitalizing on strong partnerships in order to achieve the objectives of each of the parties on the issue of resilience in the Sahel, that WFP, through the Regional Office of Dakar, has approached universities in 5 countries of the Sahel, to instill a change in the approach and operationalization of resilience interventions in the region.

This partnership, initiated seven years ago, and the multiple exchanges on issues related to community resilience, as well as

the opportunities for collaboration between universities in the region, led to the creation in January 2020 of a Network of Sahel Universities for Resilience (REUNIR) which brings together to date six universities : Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey (Niger), Dan Dicko Dankoulodo University in Maradi (Niger), Nazi Boni University in Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), University of N'Djamena (Chad), Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis (Senegal) and Rural Polytechnic Institute (IPR) in Koulikouro (Mali).

Research, innovation, and knowledge sharing for resilient communities in the Sahel

The REUNIR network offers a unique opportunity to facilitate cooperation and knowledge sharing on building resilience for food and nutrition security in the Sahel, to advance the institutionalization of resilience tools and to contribute to the training of the next generation of resilience experts. The main objectives of the REUNIR network are:

- + >> **Strengthen research:** develop and implement regional training programmes focused on resilience; explore, with communities in the Sahel, new resilience strategies and techniques; contribute to improving the quality of scientific and technological research on resilience in the Sahel; or explore research on key topics for the region such as resilience for food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change and response to natural disasters.

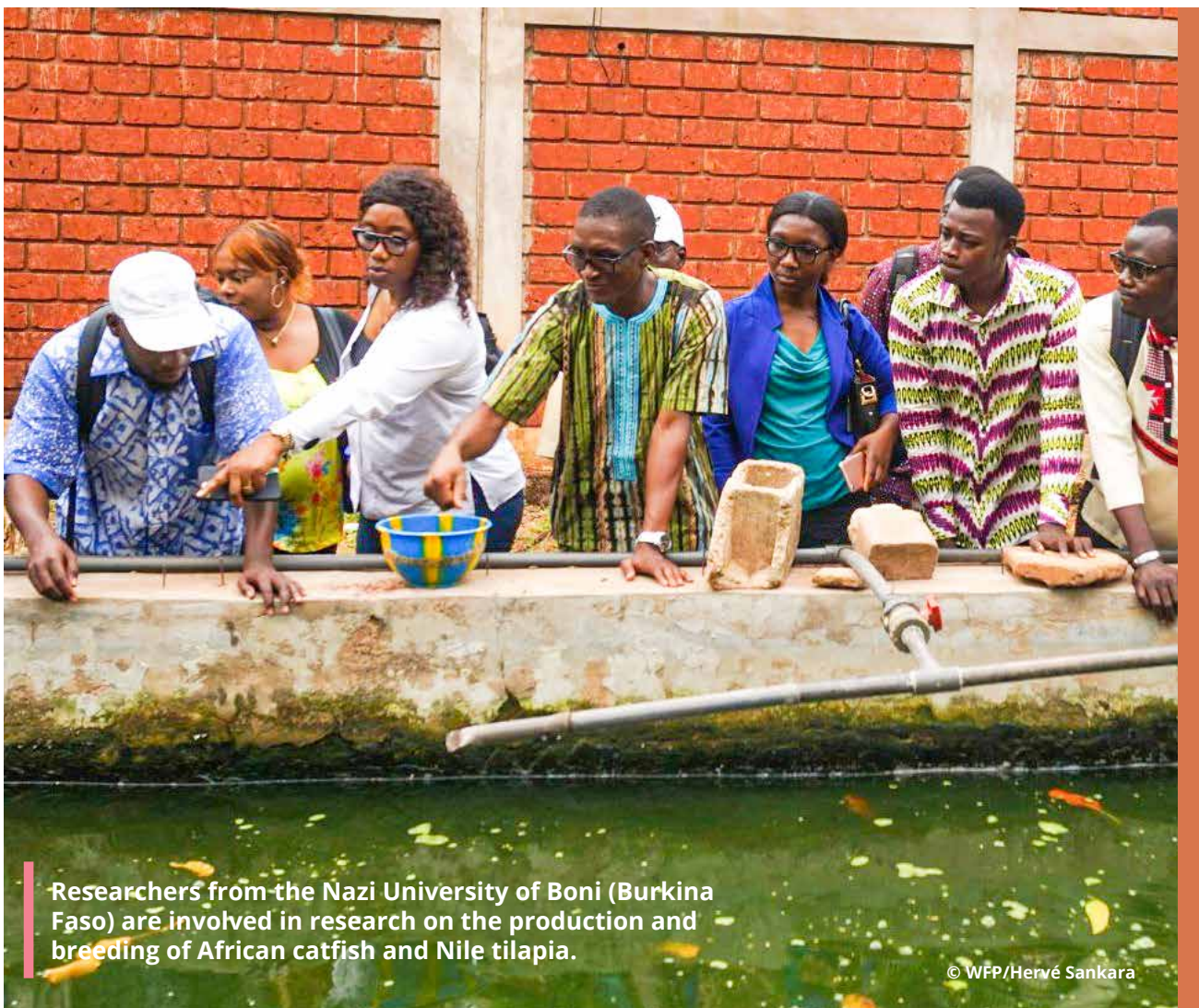
4 <https://www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/sahel/intro/fr/>

+ >> **Promoting innovation and knowledge sharing:** : consolidating inter-regional cooperation and establishing a platform for exchanges and innovations

+ >> **Build strong partnerships around resilience:** Provide advisory support to partner institutions through teaching and research activities; Support Member States and partners in the design and development of decision-making tools; develop and implement projects covering all Sahel countries in partnership with regional or sub-regional organizations working in the field of resilience

“

The creation of the REUNIR network offers a unique opportunity to facilitate cooperation and knowledge sharing on build resilience for food and nutrition security in the region.



Researchers from the Nazi University of Boni (Burkina Faso) are involved in research on the production and breeding of African catfish and Nile tilapia.

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WFP actions for a resilient Sahel

In 2018, WFP worked in close coordination with governments and partners to implement its integrated resilience programme in the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), through multiple integrated activities, combining asset creation, school feeding, nutrition, community capacity building and lean season support. In practice, this means restoring the life and productivity potential of degraded land, bringing children back to school, investing in healthy food for mothers and children, creating jobs for young people and strengthening social cohesion in entire communities⁵. WFP's support for the REUNIR network aims to ensure that it can grow sustainably, achieve its objectives, and achieve its medium-term priorities, including open the network to other universities in the Sahel; strengthen the mobility of students and teachers within REUNIR member countries; or even set up continuous training for the staff of the decentralized services of the technical ministries assigned to the field.

Within the framework of this partnership with the member universities of the network, workshops and field visits are organized to capitalize and share the different experiences in resilience, to create not only an environment favorable

to a better understanding of the resilience approach but also to support its strengthening in a sustainable way, coherent and strategic at the level of the Sahel countries and academic institutions which are WFP partners.

WFP remains a key partner for the REUNIR network, with which it has developed three main areas of collaboration:

- + **Field research:** deployment of master's and doctoral students from universities to WFP resilience sites to conduct research for their theses, whose experience and research results help to inform the planning and development of resilience programmes, to improve the technical quality of interventions and capitalize on concrete solutions to strengthen food security and resilience to climate and economic shocks in the Sahel.
- + **The development of training modules:** support for the development of training modules and standardized range of climate-sensitive assets, among others.
- + **Training and knowledge sharing:** joint organization of technical training for WFP staff, cooperation partners and decentralized government services to strengthen their capacities..

⁵ <https://sway.office.com/o2PezKtz7VdeKQjb?ref=Link&loc=play>





On 25 October 2021 in Abidjan, CERFAM participated in the inaugural international conference to launch the Center for Prospective Studies (CEP) on the theme: **The African continental free trade area: a lever for food security in Africa**, whose work was launched by HE Mr. Patrick Achi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

On October 28, 2021, CERFAM, through its Director ai, Mr. Patrick Teixeira, made a presentation in Sub-theme 3 entitled: **«Increased availability and accessibility on the market of African foods rich in nutrients»** as a prelude at the Celebration of the 12th African Food and Nutrition Security Day, which took place on October 29, 2021, under the theme **“Rediscovering our local African diets for sustainable food systems and nutrition”**.

CERFAM participated in the International seminar on experience sharing on social safety nets for food and nutrition in West Africa, which was held from 19 to 23 November 2021 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, organized by ECOWAS, through the panel on: **“Building functional and sustainable Home-Grown School Feeding models and offering opportunities to small producers”**

CERFAM presented, on November 18, 2021, its main achievements, and its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 2, during the WFP side event, on the margins of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board, which focused on the theme: **Harnessing the potential of Good Practices to accelerate zero hunger.**

CERFAM participated on December 8 in the knowledge exchange session with the Federal Republic of Nigeria on **Home-Grown School Feeding**, alongside the governments of Nigeria and Brazil, the WFP office in Nigeria, WFP school programmes in Rome, WFP Centres of excellence in Brazil and China.

CERFAM joined a wide range of experts from around the world on December 6, 2021 for a webinar hosted by IntelliDigest, a biotechnology company specializing in global food sustainability, **to discuss the current fiscal challenges of the food system, as well as different ways to finance new forms of food production and distribution for a more sustainable global food system.**

On December 7, 2021, CERFAM and Agreenium closed the cycle of joint webinars for the year 2021 with the fourth on the theme: **“ Food waste in Africa: How to rethink and transform our food supply chains and food systems in a sustainable way?**

WEBINAR

CERFAM
Centre for Economic Research and Food Analysis

WFP
World Food Programme

agreenium

THEME

Food Waste in Africa

How to rethink and transform our food supply chains and food systems in a sustainable way

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“Closer collaboration between development partners and innovative responses will strengthen the long-term resilience of communities, mainly the most vulnerable”.

African development bank

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

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