



Official Participant

Report Template for EU Events at EXPO

Event Title :	Sahel and West Africa Forum	Date:	26-27 October 2016
Event Organiser:	Secretariat of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) of the OECD		
Event Target Group:	Representatives of OECD Members and West African governments, regional organisations, civil society and non-governmental organisations, professional associations and research institutions interested in West Africa's development and food security issues – some 100 participants in total		
Rapporteur:	The SWAC Secretariat's Forum team coordinated by Dr Marie Tremolieres: Email: marie.tremolieres@oecd.org		
Event Concept			
Bring together a diversity of West Africa's stakeholders to debate key issues that shape the regional prospects for food and nutrition security / resilience and the implementation of EU led Global Alliance for Resilience Sahel – West Africa (AGIR), exchange experiences, perspectives and lessons learned, and share innovative policies and approaches that can help strengthen resilience and food and nutrition security, particularly for the most vulnerable.			
Expected Outcomes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater collective understanding of the challenges that surround the prospects for food resilience West African populations in a context of rapid and structural change;• Greater awareness of the role women play in supporting resilience and sustainability;• Wider sharing of innovative approaches and mechanisms to strengthening resilience among different stakeholders.• Promotion of AGIR as a common framework for promoting innovation and coordination.			
Main Conclusions			
<p>The event identified the need to focus efforts on: 1) build the food sovereignty and capacity for resilience of all West Africans; 2) promote a model of inclusive and sustainable development that capitalises on rural-urban linkages; and 3) address inequality and promote social cohesion.</p> <p>Participants also identified the following priorities: 1) greater integration of settlement and climate change-related concerns into food security/resilience policies at all levels; 2) greater attention to resilience issues in regional trade and cross-border co-operation; 3) stronger emphasis on women's empowerment, especially their participation in decision-making at all levels, in the development and implementation of food security strategies; and 4) greater capacity of policymakers to take informed decisions based on accurate and reliable data.</p> <p>These aims and priorities require three principal actions to be achieved: 1) the application of systems approaches to development and food security, i.e. approaches that integrate different timescales, levels of interventions, activities and instruments and pay attention to their interrelationships and mutual impacts; 2) the adoption of a food system approach which encompasses primary producers to final consumers including the expanding non-farm businesses; and 3) the promotion of multi-stakeholder, multi-sector and multi-level policy dialogue processes, for example the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR)– Sahel and West Africa.</p>			
What follow-up actions emerged from this event?			
The Sahel and West Africa Forum is organised by the SWAC Secretariat as part of the annual Sahel and West Africa Week. The Forum's main conclusions fed directly into the discussions of the special session of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and the Senior Experts Group meeting of AGIR – Sahel and West Africa, which took place in Milan, Italy, on 29-30 October 2015. The RPCA final Declaration includes follow-up actions emerged through the Forum's discussions, for example about greater inclusion of women in policy dialogue and decision-making concerning food security and the coordination of resilience strategies.			

