



Political statement

«ZERO»
HUNGER
IN 2030



To make the prospect of “zero hunger in 2030” possible, let’s act together, more and better, in order to implement structural political solutions





ROPPA and CNCR co-organized an international meeting on this October, 16th 2020 to celebrate the World food day. This meeting brought together face-to-face at FONGS (Thiès) the Women College (WC) of CNCR and via videoconference format, Women Colleges of the national platforms member of ROPPA and public, bilateral and multilateral partners as well as civil society organizations.

For farmer memory, never in life, never in the history of our region, we have experienced such a serious and massive crises. We need structural solutions.

It is in a particular context that we as farmer organizations, pastoralists, agri-pastoralists and fishermen, this year marks the World food day during which, we express to our interlocutors and partners our thoughts, visions and wishes, likely to strengthen their initiatives for a sustainable transformation of our family farms, for the good of our countries and our region.

In addition to the multiple recurring crises facing our communities, this year we have seen a worsening security crisis, which has forced many farmers, pastoralists, agri-pastoralists and fishermen in Sahelian areas in particular, to leave their villages, abandoning their property, productive capital and take a path of exile. A new curse, the health crisis related to the coronavirus has hit hard the agricultural and food economies of our countries. Farmers of our countries, who live only on their productions and the sale of part of the fruits from their work, have found themselves in a situation of asphyxiation. A difficult year so for the world's farmers, pastoralists, agri-pastoralists and fishermen across West Africa. We have certainly found a little comfort in listening often attentively to our national, regional and international public or private partners, but it is clear that this listening has not improved our place in the game of actors, often economically powerful, which gives its physiognomy and dynamics to the global agricultural and food system in which we occupy a bad folding seat.

Notwithstanding the efforts made by ECOWAS, UEMOA since these 20 past years in the implementation of the regional policies for the development of the agri-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector with growth margins achieved in some sectors, most countries in the region have seen their dependency on imports of agri-food products increasing to meet the consumption needs of their populations, especially urban ones.

The farmer world of our countries is not helped by the reduction of official development assistance (ODA), nor by the use of public-private partnerships (PPP), nor by cooperation priorities, which relegates family farming to the very end of the list, nor by the evolution of national or regional policies in industrialized countries, nor by their trade dumping strategy, nor by the surprising decision to entrust the preparation of the next food Summit (2021) to the Alliance for green revolution in Africa (AGRA) and not to the UN's Global Food Security Committee (CFS), with its inclusive and accountable governance, but to a multi-stakeholder platform with legitimacy.

In our region, the various recurring economic situations and the COVID19 pandemic have shown the fragilities and structural risks of food systems and increased the probability of the occurrence of an unprecedented food and economic crisis. Low levels of the appropriate investments to support the development of the agri-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector and the low protection of the CET make that our markets are flooded with imported products, which easily win the commercial battle in a context of competition



strongly asymmetric and highly open markets in our countries. For example, let us enumerate the case of milk, which, following the end of the European quotas, experienced an outlet in our countries, in the form of milk powder, directly or indirectly subsidized, often impoverished by the extraction of animal fats and, for example, sometimes only, their replacement by vegetable fats with low economic and nutritive value.

Faced with these developments, the region finds itself in a pressing need to make its food systems more resilient and more sustainable. This need calls upon the national and regional political authorities and farmer organizations that we are.

Political authorities must encourage ambitious and in-depth revision approaches of the current policies. The region cannot do without such an exercise.

National development policies of the agri-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector and those from WAEMU and ECOWAS should be further developed, with structural measures, the most relevant instruments considering the current economic situations, more efficient, under more incentives that really support and promote a sustainable transformation of family farms, an increase in their supply quantitatively, qualitatively, variously and on regular basis, an improvement in agrifood processing to always adapt the supply to the changing demands of consumers in the region, and resilience of rural communities in various territories.

We, farmers, need more than ever a rapid and efficient deployment of the FRDA and RAAF supported primarily by internal financial resource mechanisms that guarantee their sovereignty. Our region and our countries need a better protection of its strategic products and local markets ; we need a truly operational regional market for the agri-forestry-pastoral and fisheries products ; We need sufficient and quality instruments and incentives to advance the much-needed agro-ecological transition, the protection and promotion of agro-biodiversity.

From our side, many innovations are underway to face the various economic conditions at work, maintain and strengthen our activities, promote production systems that are more resilient, profitable, creating jobs and based on a socially fair approach. Women's organizations on our farms have been able, in collaboration with food technology research institutions, to strengthen agrifood processing engineering and are thus finding a convincing way to win the battle for the promotion of consumption of products from local family farms.

Our networks are responsible for supporting the scaling-up of this adaptive and creative capacity of family farms which saved the

Sahelian countries during successive droughts in early 1970s ; to support an increase quantitatively, qualitatively and variously in supply from family farms productions.

We CNCR, ROPPA and other national platforms member of the network, we tried through the family farms Observatory of ROPPA, we endeavoured to produce knowledge about the evolution of our realities, agricultural campaigns, markets, national and regional policies to support the agri-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector , we multiplied the exchanges at the scale of our great region, finally we agreed on five priority areas of our network investment included in a five-year plan (2019-2023) , which for us are together, the way to support the resilience and sustainable transformation of family farms across west Africa (i) are local support for family farms ; (ii) agro-ecological evolution of the agricultural production systems ; (iii) promotion of the economic activities from women or youth within, downstream or near family farms ; (iv) the organization of inclusive sectors ; (v) local and national consumption of products from West African family farms .

In the face of the critical situation of our agri-forestry-pastoral and fisheries activities, we are willing to taking advantage of the 2020 World Food Day to propose to the regional institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, CORAF), our interlocutors and public and private partners, on behalf of the West African farmers, of their national platforms and ROPPA, to receive :

- **An invitation to undertake in-depth reflections capable of allowing the adoption of structural solutions to the crises currently at work, helping support a deep transformation of the food systems in the region ;**
- **a call so that to better take into account in the processes of sector-wide policies and programs, farmers' priorities included in their strategic guidances of their affiliation networks ;**
- **An invitation to support the effective implementation of the family farming decade, in particular through its global action plan as well as national action plans ;**
- **The proposal to organize the Estates General on agriculture and food, in countries where it is possible and in forms compatible with health and security risks.**

We remain convinced that these guidances constitute the convincing way for our family farms, our countries and the West African region, to effectively respond to the current and future stakes of food security and sovereignty.

In Thiès, October 16th, 2020

Chairman of CNCR

Chairman of ROPPA

