The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) began establishing its Regional Training Centres (RTCs) within the first decade and a half of the creation of the Organization in order to bridge critical gaps in training facilities at regional levels. Today, the WMO RTC network includes 27 Members hosting 39 education and training components.

**REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES**

**WHAT THEY ARE**

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**WHAT THEY DO**

Provide education and training opportunities for WMO Members, particularly NMHS staff.

Supply advice and assistance on education and training matters to WMO Members.

Promote quality education and training opportunities that meet regional/international priorities.

**PROJECT RTCs**

**AGRHYMET Regional Centre** in Niamey, Niger, and **IBIMET-CNR** in Florence, Italy, are two RTCs that provide education and training services for the WMO Regional Association I (RA-I, Africa), especially in areas such as utilization of seasonal climate forecasts and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in agriculture.

The project is being led by the World Meteorological Organization. Partners of the project are two Regional Training Centers of WMO, the Institute of Biometeorology of the Italian National Research Council (CNR-IBIMET) and the AGRHYMET Regional Center, that will operate with technical and financial support of WMO. The project is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

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Africa, in particular West Africa, is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts in the world because of its widespread poverty and its limited adaptation capability. The majority of natural disasters in West Africa are caused by meteorological and hydrological phenomena (GCOS, CEA-UN, African Union).

This vulnerability exposes West Africa to crises that can turn into humanitarian disasters. Climate is a key factor in food crises, and the international community has recognized that appropriate forecasts of agricultural production and food demand could help create national food security stocks and avoid severe famines.

THE CONTEXT

This situation is made even more fragile due to the dependence of agriculture on rainfall, which is typical of these areas, and, at the same time, by an increasing demand for resources due to high population growth rates.

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TARGET GROUPS

Experts of National Agriculture, Agro-Meteorological, Hydrological and Early Warning Services.

BENEFICIARIES

The intervention areas of the project are the 17 member states of CILSS/ECOWAS.

OUTCOMES

The activities are planned to achieve the following objectives:

TRAINING COURSES

Enhance the technical and scientific knowledge on CCA and DRR of the technical services’ staff of the CILSS/ECOWAS member Countries.

Four training courses will be conducted in Italy and in Niger. Topics will include climate change impacts assessment, disaster prevention, and development of agrometeorological services for agriculture.

NETWORKING

Strengthen the Regional network that brings together the community of technical services involved in CCA and DRR.

Networking activities will be organized such as a networking conference, mentoring and support for regional programs of research and development.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER USE

This training course will strengthen the technical capacities of National Technical Services, for a better adaptation to climate change of irrigation systems for agriculture and horticulture. The course will provide knowledge on the relationships among soil, water, climate and plants, identify rational techniques of irrigation.

METHODOLOGIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This training course will strengthen the capacity of the National Technical Services for a better assessment of climate change and its impacts on agriculture and water resources, to allow better planning and governance.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES FOR RAINFED CROPS

This training course will strengthen the technical capacity of the CILSS / ECOWAS countries to provide agro-climatic information and services for rainfed agriculture and appropriate support to use the agrometeorological information along with the decision-making processes.

PROJECT

The Project Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture is a training programme with the aim to reduce the impacts of Natural Disaster and Climate Change on the agricultural sector in West Africa. Its specific objective is to improve the capacity of national technical services to support sustainable development in response to climate change and its associated risks.

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