



COMITE PERMANENT INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL  
PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL  
COMITÉ PERMANENTE INTER-ESTADOS DE LUTA CONTRA A SECA NO SAHEL  
اللجنة الدائمة المشتركة لمحاربة التصحر في الساحل



## Centre Régional AGRHYMET

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Seasonal Forecasting Workshop on agro-hydro-climatic characteristics of the main rainfall season in the Gulf of Guinea countries

#### I. INTRODUCTION

**Venue :** Accra, Ghana

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024

**Funding sources:** Intra ACP-GFCS/ClimSA, FSRP, P2-P2RS and PRASAR projects

**Target and number of participants:** about 50 staff from meteorological and hydrological services, rivers basins organizations, member of one the regional user interface platform, disaster risk reduction agencies from the Gulf of Guinea countries. These are mainly Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo.

**Conditions:** to be designated by the meteorological or hydrological service, rivers basin organizations or a disaster risk reduction agency of one of the above-mentioned countries. The designated staff have to be involved in climate monitoring, monitoring of cropping season, analysis of agrometeorological and hydrological data and/production of agro-hydro-climatic information, or to be a member of the national disaster risk management team.

#### I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Sub-Saharan Africa in general is considered as one of the most vulnerable regions to the effects of climate variability and change, due to the fragility of its economy. This, is essentially based on the exploitation of local natural resources, is highly dependent on changes in the characteristics of the rainy season (spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall, onset and cessation dates of the rainy season, length of dry spells, rivers basins runoff). These characteristics of the season have high impacts on agropastoral production, and therefore on the food and nutritional security of populations, as well as on the occurrence of extremes hydroclimatic phenomena (floods, droughts). These extremes phenomena have strongly

affected West African countries in recent years and in some cases have caused loss of property and human life.

The combination of the effects of environmental change, demographic pressure and high hydro-climatic variability has considerably increased agricultural risks and natural disasters. In addition, future projections for this part of the world, despite their uncertainties, indicate a further increase in rainfall variability, a rise in temperature and sea level and an increase in extreme hydrometeorological phenomena. In order to better manage these different risks, it is required to promote the scientific knowledge necessary for decision making simultaneously with the strengthening of operational systems for prevention and management of these risks. To this end, seasonal climate forecasting is one of the best strategies for adapting to climate variability and change in the subregion. Thus, the development and dissemination of information describing the rainy season even before it starts would allow end-users (farmers, water resource managers, decision-makers) and various stakeholders to make optimal choices for the season. For example, knowledge of an early or late start to the rainy season would allow farmers to make strategic choices regarding the seed's varieties, labor investments and agricultural inputs. Equally, forecasting a wet season would allow in advance to organize the relief actions and advises against occupation of flood-prone areas, while, forecasting a dry season could allow for preparation against possible water shortages that could lead to food and nutritional insecurity.

Subsequently, it is needed to strengthen the capacities of the meteorological and hydrological staff in the region to better characterize and forecast agro-hydro-climatic risks and to formulate oriented recommendations. Thus, in agreement with its mandate to support these national services and produce regional information on food security and disaster, related to weather, water and climate, AGRHYMET Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and the Sahel (RCC-WAS), in collaboration with its partners (NMHSs, ACMAD, rivers basin organizations, International Climate Centers, National Platforms for Risk and Disaster Management, etc.) are organizing a **seasonal forecasting workshop on agro-hydro-climatic characteristics for the Gulf of Guinea countries, followed by a forum to share with the users, intermediaries and decision makers the outcome of the 2024 main rainfall season in the region.**

In this context, the AGRHYMET RCC-WAS is supported by the European Union, African development Bank, the World Bank and USAID through the Climate Services and Related Application Programme (ClimSA), the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), the Programme de Renforcement de la Résilience à l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle au Sahel (P2P2RS) and Programme Régional d'Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire et à la Résilience (PRASAR).

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of NMHSs through the co-production of agro-hydro-climatic forecasts for vulnerability reduction. More specifically, it will aim to:

- i) Strengthen the capacity of participants on the technics of analysis and characterization of agro-hydro-climatic risks related to the main rainy season for the Gulf of Guinea countries;

- ii) Generate the seasonal forecast of agro-hydro-climatic characteristics (cumulative MAM and AMJ rainfall, onset and cessation dates of the agronomic season, dry spells, rivers basins runoff);
- iii) Discuss with partners (users, decision makers, etc.) in particular different Users Interface platforms (UIPs), on the results of seasonal forecasts in order to better adapt these products to their needs and take into account this information in their planning;
- iv) Develop and disseminate recommendations and a press release to users (end-users/farmers, decision makers and other technical partners).

### **III. EXPECTED RESULTS**

- The staff of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the Gulf of Guinea countries are able to characterize and forecast the agro-hydro-climatic risks of the major rainy season;
- Seasonal forecasts of the rainfall characteristics of the mean season in the Gulf of Guinea countries are issued;
- The users interface platforms (UIPs) are operationalized;
- Current products are adapted to the needs of users for more efficient and targeted use;
- Press release on risks and specific measures to be taken to reduce vulnerability in the Gulf of Guinea countries is issued.

### **IV. METHODOLOGY**

The 2024 edition of the PRESAGG, will be held as follows:

- Online coproduction of the forecasts with partners a week before the face-to-face meeting
- 3 days experts discussions, to validate the different forecasts;
- 1 day meeting, with national sectoral users (NaUIPs) to coproduce tailored information base on the results of the seasonal forecast
- 1 day forum, to communication the result to users and media

### **V. CONDITIONS OF RECEPTION AND SUPPORT**

The costs (airfare and per diems) related to the participation of the staff designated by the meteorological and hydrological services and the river basin organizations will be covered by the AGRHYMET RCC-WAS according to the CILSS rules.

### **VI. CONTACTS AND INFORMATION**

For further information, the designated participants are invited to contact the administration of the AGRHYMET Regional Centre, [administration.agrhymet@cilss.int](mailto:administration.agrhymet@cilss.int) - Tel (+227) 20315316 / 20315436 - Fax (+227) 20315435

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