

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

90%

West Africa's population is expected to increase by nearly 90% by 2100

5%

Cocoa and food preparations account for 5% of ECOWAS exports

40%

Ivory Coast accounts for 40% of the world production of cocoa beans

The West Africa region offers potential to support sustainable water and energy-efficient innovations and approaches in agri-business. It benefits from a young and dynamic population eager to showcase its entrepreneurial innovation capacity. In a regional context often marked by conflict and climate stress, it is even more important to harness this potential to ensure food security, job creation and climate adaptation. Action must be taken now as climate change is threatening to exacerbate issues. The region has been identified by the IPCC as one of the most vulnerable to climate change. Extreme weather events are expected to increase, as well as a rise in temperature, uncertain precipitation trends, heavy rains, extreme droughts, deforestation, soil and coastal erosion, or sea level rise. These will have dramatic impacts on ecosystems, water resources, agriculture, but also on infrastructures and human health if effective measures are delayed.

The West African region offers opportunities for sustainable energy innovations: wind energy in coastal areas (Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, and also Mali, Nigeria and Ghana), small-scale hydropower in the South (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Togo, Sierra Leone), solar energy in the North (Niger, Burkina Faso, northern parts of Ghana and Nigeria) and biomass resources are well distributed across the region.

Energy and water are at the centre of sustainable development. There is a need for climate-friendly, water- and energy-efficient technologies that enable innovation to produce more with less. West Africa therefore seeks to strengthen its resilience and adaptive capacity in the agriculture water and energy sectors. The private sector is a key player in these developments, in particular local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that develop and distribute innovations tailored to local needs. WE4F will support these SMEs to offer them the opportunity to scale up their businesses and develop their entrepreneurial capacity while having a positive impact on local communities by increasing a sustainable food security.



FOCUS ACTIVITIES

The PEEPA/WE4F project implements a range of activities, such as funding companies in agribusiness through PPPs to help them switch to green energy and a more efficient use of energy and water; supporting innovators through grants and technical advice; setting up demonstration projects with enterprises, universities, NGOs, etc.; collecting and disseminating the results of demonstration projects; and developing and implementing exchange formats to adapt framework conditions.

SUPPORT TO AND COLLABORATION WITH INNOVATIVE BUSINESSES

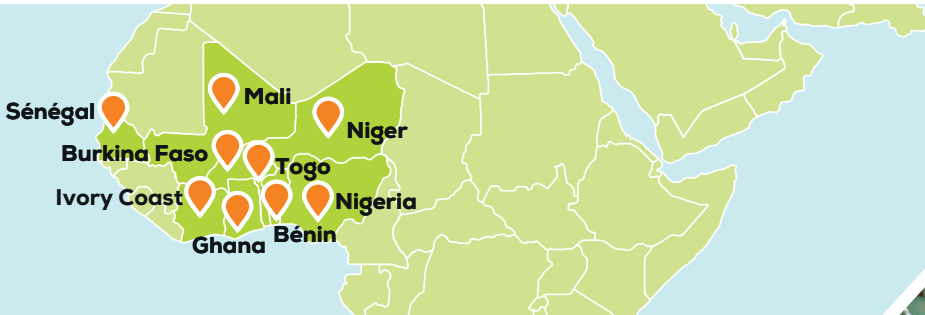
We empower selected innovators in West Africa by strengthening their management and business skills through trainings and therefore supporting them in upscaling their innovations. Further, we support additional companies through public-private partnerships in adopting more sustainable processes. To facilitate access to innovations, we improve suitable financing options for both companies and end users by developing new financial instruments and training financial actors.

ENABLE INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

To ensure an enabling environment for innovative solutions to upscale, we work on improving political and sectorial conditions by consulting policy-making processes. Further, we strengthen regional and global exchange on the interlinkages of water, energy and food by sharing lessons learned and organizing events.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & PILOT PROJECTS

We organise trainings in West Africa for end users and multipliers in different aspects of resource-efficient agriculture and food processing. We also set up pilot projects and demonstration sites to showcase technological innovations.



OBJECTIVES

- Supporting the distribution of innovations (solar and biogas technologies, apps, water and energy efficiency etc.)
- Strengthening entrepreneurial capacities
- Informing end users and multipliers about innovations
- Improving accessing to financing for innovators and end-users
- Improving political conditions for innovations
- Accelerating the exchange of experiences on the local, regional and global level

WHO WE WORK WITH

WE4F engages companies, non-profit organisations and other actors through advertised regional calls and other means to receive technical assistance, financial grants, investment facilitation, or policy advocacy support.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PROJECT PARTNER?

Contact we4f@giz.de to discuss partnership opportunities and how your organization can be a meaningful part of water-energy-food solutions.