

Agroecological Solutions for Resilient Farming in West Africa

ISRA and CARTIF invite you to take part in CIRAWA's next Consortium Meeting on 8-12 April in Saint Louis, Senegal.

Brussels, 01 April 2025 - [The CIRAWA project](#) invites members of the media to attend its third Consortium Meeting, where experts, researchers, and stakeholders will assess and advance agroecological solutions across four African nations: **Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal, and The Gambia**. This event will take place on 8-12 April 2025, at the [Centre d'Excellence Africain en Mathématiques, Informatique & TIC of the Université Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Senegal](#).

Over 30 international participants are to gather at the meeting organised by ISRA (Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles) and CARTIF (Research, Innovation and Applied Development for Businesses) along with **regional and local stakeholders**.

Together, they will review the project's progress and plan the next steps for the implementation of **agroecological solutions** in the participating West African countries. Dedicated workshops will facilitate knowledge sharing on crucial topics such as soil fertility, sustainable crop management, data collection, and agro-waste valorisation.

The event will feature a **field visit to CIRAWA-supported farming initiatives in Mbané on Wednesday, 9 April**, where participants will observe sustainable agricultural techniques and engage with local producers and authorities.

The itinerary includes a visit to a local market (Niassanté) to explore agroecological product commercialisation, share the biodigester guides produced by the project and video interviews to collect insights, a stop at an ISRA station for salinity experimentation in Ndiol, and an **awareness campaign at a local school**.

The awareness activities will include primary school educational sessions on agroecology with a presentation, a practical exercise, and educational materials on agroecology to engage the community and promote sustainable farming practices.

Additionally, the event will host a **high-level policy roundtable on Friday 11 April afternoon**, bringing together policymakers, NGOs, researchers, and civil society representatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities in agroecological innovation. Topics such as renewable energy in agriculture and the development of saline-tolerant crop varieties will be explored in depth, fostering dialogue on policy measures needed to support sustainable agriculture.

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Lastly, on **Saturday, 12 April**, ISRA will organise a **Vermicomposting Training** which includes Hands-on practical and theoretical training sessions for organic waste recycling through vermicomposting on the topics of earthworm management, facility types, and large-scale implementation.

Media representatives and journalists looking to cover any of the activities or to interview participants from visiting organisations, -which includes ADPM Mértola, AMUPAL, AJACM, CARTIF, CIFOR-ICRAF, FIDEP Foundation, ISRA, Landfiles, Ministério da Agricultura e Ambiente, NARI, National Seed Secretariat, NATC, REVOLVE, Universidad de Sevilla, Universidad de Valladolid and WACWISA-UDS- can get in touch with CIRAWA communication lead Josep Crous Duran on josep@revolve.media.

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About [CIRAWA](#)

CIRAWA is working with small-holder farmers in West Africa to improve food nutrition, local livelihoods, and ecosystem health. Bringing together 16 partners from 9 countries, CIRAWA is developing new agroecological-based practices that build on existing local and scientific knowledge to help create more resilient food supply chains in 8 regions across Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal, and The Gambia.

The project in Senegal

Senegal faces significant agricultural challenges, particularly in rural areas where poverty rates are more than twice those in the capital, Dakar. Smallholder farmers dominate the sector, but only 65% of the country's arable land is cultivated, making Senegal reliant on food imports. Climate change exacerbates these issues, causing erratic rainfall, rising sea levels, land degradation, and water scarcity, all of which threaten food security and rural livelihoods.

The CIRAWA project in Senegal aims to address these challenges through studies on soil fertility, the development of bio-based fertilizers, soil conservation, and saline soil reclamation using salt-tolerant rice species. Additionally, a crop management decision support system is being developed to optimize irrigation and fertilization. Two key case study regions for these initiatives are the Senegal River Valley in the north and the Central West zone.

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