

Enhancing Sustainable Land Management and Climate-Resilient Agri-food Systems in Côte d'Ivoire (LARACI) Funding Proposal

Annex 7: Stakeholder consultations and engagement plan

2 June 2026

This portion has been redacted in accordance with the GCF Information Disclosure Policy, as the portion is confidential under the disclosure policy of the Accredited Entity.

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List of Acronyms

AE	Accredited entity
ADERIZ	Agency for the Development of the Rice Sector in Côte d'Ivoire
ANADER	National Agency for Support to Rural Development
AGRHYMET	Agriculture, Hydrology, Meteorology Regional Center
ARDCI	Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire
APR	Annual performance report
BNETD	National Office for Technical Studies and Development
CBO	Community-based organization
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CN	Concept note
CNRA	National Agronomic Research Center
CNTIG	National Committee for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture
CURAT	University Center for Research and Application in Remote Sensing
EE	Executing entity
ENSEA	Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics
ESA	Ecole Supérieure d'Agronomie
ESAP	Environmental and social action plan
ESS	Environmental and social safeguards
E&S	Environmental and social
FAA	Funded Activity Agreement
FIRCA	Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricoles
FP	Funding proposal
GBV	Gender-based violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GRM	Grievance redress mechanism
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INADES	African Institute for Economic and Social Development
INP-HB GreenHubs	National Polytechnical Institute-Félix Houphouët-Boigny
INS	National Statistical Institute

KPI	Key performance indicator
LARACI	Enhancing Sustainable Land Management and Climate- Resilient Agri-food Systems in Côte d'Ivoire
MFFE	Ministry of Family, Women and Children
MINADER PV	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Production
MINETE	Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SEAH	Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
SEP	Stakeholder engagement plan
SMN	National Meteorological Service
SODEXAM	La Société d'Exploitation et de Développement Aéroportuaire, Aéronautique et Météorologique
UVICOCI	Union of Cities and Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire

1 Introduction

1.1 Project description

The project “Enhancing Sustainable Land Management and Climate- Resilient Agri-food Systems in Côte d'Ivoire (LARACI)” promotes the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in order to: (i) strengthen the resilience of rural communities to climate risks; (ii) increase agricultural productivity and value chain profitability to improve food security and the incomes of agricultural households; and (iii) reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint to initiate a shift to a low carbon development pathway. The project’s focus is particularly on the resilience and management of climate risks and reduction of the GHG emissions footprint associated with three key value chains: rice, cassava, and yam. These crops have a high potential for resilience to climate change, strongly contribute to food security, and have potential for mitigation gains to reduce GHG footprints typically associated with these value chains.

The LARACI project will focus its field interventions on the regions of N’Zi, Moronou, Iffou, La Mé, and Gbêkê. These areas of central Côte d'Ivoire, constituting the former “*cocoa belt*”, are experiencing severe environmental degradation caused by strong anthropogenic pressure on resources, such as bush fires, deforestation, agricultural land clearing, and artisanal gold panning. These actions have led to landscape change, biodiversity loss, soil depletion, pollution of water resources, and reduced capacity to absorb carbon emissions. Rural communities in the targeted regions are thus particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change (variability in rainfall, decrease in rainfall, rise in temperatures, etc.), and in turn, these conditions lead to lower productivity, impoverishment, household food insecurity, rural exodus, and inequalities accessing natural resources. Consequently, farmers and national stakeholders are looking for more climate-resilient alternatives to improve food security and livelihoods in the long term.

In this context, the LARACI project provides an opportunity to improve the adaptive capacity and build resilience of rural communities in the central regions. The project is also committed to reducing sex and age-based discriminatory inequalities and practices regarding access to capacity building and extension, information, agricultural inputs, land and water, agricultural tools and equipment, labor, and financial resources. This commitment should make it possible to improve the economic and social empowerment of women and young people in the agrifood sector of the Center-East of Côte d'Ivoire.

For the implementation of this project, the CGIAR System Organization, as the Accredited Entity (AE), will engage two Executing Entities (EEs): Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricoles (FIRCA) and AfricaRice (a CGIAR Center). AfricaRice will engage two other CGIAR Centers (the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and IITA) as Service Providers to provide specialized services for the project implementation. During implementation, the EEs will coordinate implementation with Government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector entities and farmer organizations as key project stakeholders, or as procured parties selected through a procurement process for the provision of specific services and activities.

1.2 Purpose and objective

The project's stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) outlines a comprehensive strategy to engage all affected communities and individuals, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, in project activities throughout the entire project cycle. The plan outlines, in section 3, specific measures for information disclosure, culturally appropriate consultations, and informed participation, that will be undertaken to ensure gender-responsive and equitable engagement. It will also establish a confidential activity-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM), aligned with the AE's (CGIAR System Organization) grievance system, and GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism, that enable timely and appropriate resolution of community concerns (see section 4).

Building on a solid foundation through the comprehensive stakeholder consultations conducted during project preparation and co-design approach that has informed the design of this project, the stakeholder engagement plan serves to ensure effective and meaningful stakeholder participation throughout the project's lifecycle. Engagement activities will be carried out at different stages, focusing on informing stakeholders of new developments and changes in the project's risks and impacts, consultation, and feedback collection to align project implementation with stakeholder expectations and concerns.

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation.

1.3 Guiding principles

Differentiated approaches ranging from one-on-one meetings, to surveys, workshops, focus groups, participatory events, etc. will be undertaken to ensure effective engagement of stakeholders including vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals – who are affected or potentially affected by proposed GCF-funded activities. The stakeholder engagement plan adheres to the principles of transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, non-discrimination, and “do no harm” by adopting the following best practices:

- ***Openness and life-cycle approach:*** Consultations for the project will be arranged through multiple and differentiated opportunities during the whole life cycle. Engagement will be carried out in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation.
- ***Informed participation and feedback:*** Information will be provided to and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format that responds directly to people's expectations and interests related to the project; opportunities are provided for communicating stakeholder feedback, and for analyzing and addressing comments and concerns.
- ***Inclusiveness and sensitivity:*** Stakeholder identification is undertaken to support better communications and build effective relationships. The participation process for the projects is inclusive, taking into consideration the cultural norms, practices, and values of the stakeholders. All stakeholders - at all times - are encouraged to be involved in the consultation process. Equal access to information is provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders' needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention is given to vulnerable and marginalized groups

that may be at risk of exploitation or other potentially harmful unintended project impacts or of being left out of project benefits. This includes particularly women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and migrant workers and communities, and the cultural sensitivities of diverse ethnic groups. Engagement activities will be designed to find appropriate ways to engage women and other vulnerable groups in contexts where their participation in public meetings may not be accepted.

- **Flexibility:** The project's approach to consultation will be flexible and adaptive using multiple formats such as in-person meetings, virtual discussions, and surveys to ensure inclusion. It will be context-specific, iterative, and responsive, integrating stakeholder feedback including through adaptive management.
- **Two-way communication:** This will allow for exchange of views, undertaken with dedicated deep listening to ensure that concerns are acknowledged. This will require being prepared to negotiate, adapt plans, and explore alternatives. It also allows for a mutually agreed process for timely reporting of actions taken, with clarification regarding upcoming steps.
- **Documentation and record keeping:** Engagement activities will be appropriately documented to ensure tracking of disclosed information, issues raised, commitments and agreements, and how stakeholder concerns have been addressed

2 Stakeholder identification and analysis

2.1 Affected parties

Affected parties are individuals, groups, and institutions that are directly impacted—positively or potentially adversely—by the implementation of LARACI activities in the five target regions of **N’Zi, Moronou, Iffou, La Mé, and Gbêkê**. These stakeholders are primarily rural populations and institutions whose livelihoods, mandates, or operational responsibilities are closely linked to agriculture, land management, natural resources, and climate resilience within the targeted landscapes. Affected parties are categorized below according to their level of exposure to project interventions and their socio-economic vulnerability.

A. Primary Beneficiaries

I. Smallholder farmers

Smallholder farmers constitute the core affected group. This includes:

- Rice, cassava, and yam producers
- Inland valley rice farmers
- Agroforestry practitioners
- Mixed crop–livestock farmers

These farmers operate within production systems increasingly affected by climate change, manifested through soil degradation, erratic rainfall, declining fertility, pest pressure, and reduced water availability. LARACI interventions focus on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies,

improved soil fertility management, agroforestry integration, extension support, and climate information services—are designed to directly enhance their adaptive capacity and productivity.

Smallholder farmers are expected to experience significant positive impacts through improved access to CSA technologies, enhanced soil fertility management practices, strengthened water control systems in inland valleys, and improved access to localized climate and agrometeorological information. These interventions are designed to increase productivity, reduce vulnerability to climate shocks, stabilize yields, and improve household income and food security. Farmers may also benefit from strengthened extension services and improved access to finance, enabling investment in improved seeds, soil amendments, irrigation systems, and diversified production systems.

However, some transitional impacts may arise, particularly where restoration or agroforestry activities require adjustments in land-use practices or cropping patterns. Farmers may need to adopt new techniques, allocate land differently, or invest time in capacity-building activities before benefits materialize. If not carefully managed, there is also a risk that better-resourced farmers capture disproportionate benefits. Continuous engagement and inclusive targeting are therefore essential.

II. Women farmers and women-headed households

Women are central actors in the targeted value chains, particularly in cassava processing, food marketing, and household nutrition management. However, structural inequalities affect their participation and access to resources.

Characteristics:

- Often engaged in post-harvest handling and value addition
- Limited access to formal land titles
- Reduced access to credit and financial services
- Primary responsibility for household food security

Women farmers are expected to benefit from improved access to agricultural inputs, training, climate information services, and financial products tailored to climate-resilient production. Enhanced productivity in cassava, rice, and yam value chains may strengthen women's income-generating capacity and economic empowerment, contributing to improved household nutrition and welfare. Participation in strengthened cooperatives and market linkages may also increase their decision-making power within value chains.

Nevertheless, the distribution of benefits depends heavily on overcoming structural constraints such as limited land tenure security, restricted mobility, and social norms limiting participation in public decision-making. Without targeted support, there is a risk that women's unpaid labor burden could increase or that male household members control financial gains. The project's gender-responsive design aims to mitigate these risks and ensure equitable benefit sharing.

The SEP therefore integrates gender-responsive engagement strategies, including separate consultations, female facilitators, accessible meeting locations, and confidential grievance mechanisms.

III. Youth in agriculture

Youth represent both a vulnerable and strategic stakeholder group. This includes:

- Youth cooperatives
- Agribusiness startups
- Unemployed rural youth seeking agricultural opportunities

In many target regions, youth migration is linked to declining agricultural productivity and limited employment prospects. LARACI aims to address this through value chain development and entrepreneurship support.

Youth are expected to benefit from new employment and entrepreneurship opportunities created through strengthened climate-resilient value chains, agro-processing activities, and service provision linked to CSA technologies. Capacity-building initiatives in marketing, digital tools, irrigation management, and agribusiness development are intended to enhance youth skills and competitiveness in the agricultural sector. By promoting profitable and climate-resilient farming systems, the project may help reduce rural-urban migration and increase youth engagement in local economic activities.

However, expectations regarding job creation must be carefully managed, as employment opportunities may initially be limited or gradual. If youth perceive unequal access to support or land resources, dissatisfaction could arise. Transparent selection processes and inclusive targeting will therefore be critical.

IV. Farmer cooperatives and professional producer organizations

This group includes:

- Rice and cassava cooperatives, and largely less formally organized yam producer organizations
- Value-chain marketing associations
- Interbranch and umbrella organizations

These institutions play a critical role in aggregation, commercialization, and market access.

Farmer cooperatives and professional producer organizations are expected to experience institutional strengthening through improved governance, enhanced technical capacity, and better access to financial mechanisms and markets. The project's support for aggregation, marketing systems, and climate-smart production standards may increase their competitiveness, bargaining power, and integration into sustainable value chains. Access to climate-aligned finance instruments may further enable expansion and modernization of operations.

At the same time, these organizations may need to adapt to new reporting, environmental compliance, and safeguard requirements. This could initially increase administrative workload. If benefits are unevenly distributed within cooperatives, internal tensions may arise. Strengthened governance mechanisms and transparency will help mitigate such risks.

V. Agricultural SMEs

This group includes:

- Range from micro-enterprises to medium-sized businesses with varying levels of legal and administrative formalization.
- Engage in activities along the cassava, yam or rice value chains, beyond primary production, including input supply, aggregation, processing, storage, distribution, and retail.

Agricultural SMEs play a central role in value addition, job creation, and income diversification in rural areas. These enterprises require access to finance to expand operations, adopt improved technologies, and scale CSA services. With targeted concessional finance and technical assistance, SMEs can strengthen their operational capacity, upgrade processing, storage, and marketing systems, and better comply with environmental and social safeguards, thereby enhancing their contribution to climate-resilient value chains.

Through project support—particularly in access to finance, capacity development, and the integration of CSA technologies —SMEs may improve their competitiveness, expand service provision, and integrate more fully into sustainable market systems. These benefits are expected to stimulate local employment, strengthen value chain linkages, and increase rural economic opportunities.

Structural barriers may limit participation of women- and youth-owned SMEs, particularly where collateral, business formalization, or property registration are lacking. To mitigate these risks, the project will apply inclusive eligibility principles ensuring that female- and youth-owned enterprises are not excluded on the basis of limited collateral or informality, provided they demonstrate at least 51% ownership with effective managerial decision-making authority.

B. Local Authorities and decentralized structures

Affected institutional stakeholders at sub-national level include:

- Regional councils
- Prefectures and municipalities
- Village chiefs and traditional leaders
- Decentralized technical services (agriculture, environment, forestry)

These actors are directly affected because project activities may influence land-use planning, natural resource governance, and local development strategies.

Local authorities are expected to benefit from strengthened technical capacity in sustainable land management, improved coordination of agricultural development initiatives, and enhanced institutional collaboration across sectors. The project may support better land-use planning, climate adaptation strategies, and improved conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level.

However, local authorities may also face increased responsibilities related to coordination, grievance handling, and oversight of restoration or agroforestry interventions. In cases where land-use adjustments generate disputes, authorities may need to mediate conflicts. Capacity-building support will therefore be critical to ensure effective management.

C. Financial Institutions

Financial actors engaged in financial services related to CSA are directly affected by the project's technical assistance and risk-sharing mechanisms. This includes:

- Commercial Banks
- Microfinance institutions and Mobile Money Operators
- Insurance Providers

Financial institutions participating in the project are expected to benefit from technical assistance aimed at strengthening their capacity to design and manage climate-smart agricultural finance products. Risk-sharing mechanisms and improved data on climate-resilient production may enhance their confidence in lending to smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. Over time, this may expand their portfolios in CSA and improve financial inclusion in rural areas.

However, institutions may face increased due diligence requirements related to environmental and social risk management. Adapting lending criteria and internal systems to integrate climate and safeguard considerations may require institutional adjustments and training.

D. Executing and Implementing Entities

The following entities are directly affected due to their implementation and compliance responsibilities:

- CGIAR System Organization (Accredited Entity)
- FIRCA (Co-Executing Entity)
- AfricaRice (Co-Executing Entity)
- CIAT (service provider)
- IITA (service provider)

Executing and implementing entities are expected to strengthen their institutional capacity in environmental and social safeguards (ESS), grievance redress management, and climate-resilient programming. Successful implementation may enhance their credibility, technical expertise, and long-term institutional positioning in climate finance and sustainable agriculture.

At the same time, they carry significant accountability and reputational risk exposure. They must ensure strict compliance with safeguard standards, manage SEA/SH risks appropriately, and maintain transparent reporting systems. Failure to effectively manage these responsibilities could affect institutional reputation and funding relationships.

2.2 Other interested parties

Other interested parties are stakeholders who may not be directly affected at the household or operational level by LARACI interventions, but who have a significant interest in the project's objectives, outcomes, governance arrangements, or environmental and social performance.

These stakeholders may possess regulatory authority, technical expertise, financial influence, or strategic oversight responsibilities relevant to the successful implementation of the project in the regions of N’Zi, Moronou, Iffou, La Mé, and Gbêkê.

Their engagement is essential to ensure policy alignment, technical quality, institutional sustainability, and transparency throughout the project lifecycle.

A. National Government institutions

National ministries and public institutions represent key interested parties due to their mandates in agriculture, environment, finance, decentralization, and social inclusion. These include, inter alia, the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (MINETE) acting as the National Designated Authority (NDA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Production (MINADER PV), the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Budget, the Ministry of Family, Women and Children (MFFE), and the Ministry of Interior and Security.

These institutions have a strategic interest in ensuring that LARACI contributes to Côte d’Ivoire’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), national agricultural investment plans, climate-smart agriculture strategies, and broader sustainable development priorities. Their involvement ensures policy coherence, oversight of public resources, and long-term institutional ownership. Although they are not directly impacted as beneficiaries, project outcomes may influence national policy frameworks, sectoral coordination, and future climate finance mobilization.

B. Research and technical institutions

Research institutions and technical agencies constitute another important category of interested parties. These include national research centers, universities, meteorological services, and geospatial and statistical institutions. Their expertise supports soil mapping, agrometeorological data production, climate modeling, extension methodologies, and CSA innovation scaling.

These institutions have an interest in knowledge generation, data sharing, research partnerships, and institutional strengthening. Project implementation may create opportunities for collaborative research, technology validation, and capacity development. Their engagement contributes to scientific credibility, evidence-based decision-making, and sustainability beyond the project period.

C. Civil society organizations and NGOs

Civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and non-governmental organizations active in rural development, gender equality, environmental protection, and social inclusion are also considered other interested parties. While they may not directly receive project benefits, they play a critical role in representing community interests, promoting accountability, and supporting awareness-raising and mobilization efforts.

These actors have an interest in ensuring that project implementation respects environmental and social standards, promotes equitable access to benefits, and safeguards vulnerable groups. Their participation enhances transparency, strengthens community trust, and provides additional feedback channels to complement formal grievance mechanisms.

D. Private sector actors and market participants

Private sector actors including input suppliers, commodity buyers, processors, agribusiness investors, and technology providers—have an interest in the development of resilient and sustainable agricultural value chains. Improved productivity, better quality standards, and strengthened cooperative structures may enhance supply reliability and market competitiveness.

Although these actors may not be direct beneficiaries of project financing, they stand to gain from improved value chain efficiency and market expansion. Their engagement can also facilitate private investment, innovation uptake, and sustainability of interventions after project closure.

E. Development partners and international organizations

Development partners, multilateral institutions, and climate finance actors operating in Côte d'Ivoire are also considered interested parties. They may have ongoing or planned interventions in related sectors such as climate adaptation, land restoration, agricultural finance, or rural development.

Their interest lies in ensuring complementarity, avoiding duplication of efforts, and identifying opportunities for co-financing or scaling successful models. Coordination with these actors strengthens harmonization with national and international development agendas and supports broader systemic impact.

F. Media and the general public

The media and the broader public constitute an additional category of interested parties. Media outlets, including local radio stations and national press, contribute to information dissemination, public awareness, and transparency. Consumers and citizens may have an indirect interest in improved food security, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience outcomes.

Engagement with media and public audiences supports accountability, promotes awareness of climate-smart agriculture practices, and enhances the visibility of project achievements and lessons learned.

2.3 Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups

Engagement with vulnerable groups requires the application of specific measures and assistance to facilitate their participation in project-related decision-making so that their awareness of and input into the overall process are commensurate with those of other stakeholders. Therefore, it is important that awareness raising, and stakeholder engagement be adapted to consider particular sensitivities, concerns, and cultural sensitivities and to ensure a full understanding of project activities and benefits. This helps to understand and track whether project impacts may disproportionately fall on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups.

Within the project, vulnerable or disadvantaged groups may include but are not limited to the following:

- Communities living in remote areas
- Marginalized communities
- Elderly individuals

- Women and women-headed households
- Youth in farming
- Illiterate smallholder farmers
- Farmers with disabilities
- Farmers with low incomes

Representative organizations and leaders for these groups may include local women's associations and cooperatives, youth farming groups, community-based organizations (CBOs) focused on rural development, organizations supporting persons with disabilities, religious and traditional leaders, NGOs working with marginalized communities, and local farmer associations and cooperatives.

TABLE 1: TAILORED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEASURES (DISADVANTAGED/VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS)

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	POTENTIAL LIMITATIONS TO ENGAGEMENT	MEASURES TO FACILITATE ENGAGEMENT
Women farmers and youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncomfortable sharing opinions in mixed-gender settings. • Family responsibilities and social norms limit participation. • Need for spousal permission. • Difficulty attending events far from home or at inconvenient times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage female facilitators for workshops and consultations. • Hold meetings near communities and at convenient times. • Organize gender-disaggregated meetings. • Use diverse communication channels, including radio, social media, and community leaders. • Produce accessible materials, including audiovisual formats for illiterate participants. • Engage women's groups and youth associations to facilitate participation. • Use male-gender champions to address constraining gender norms that limit women's participation in project activities. • Provide child-care facilities during meetings.
Remote Area Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to transport for events. • Difficulty attending centralized meetings. • Limited understanding of the language of instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide transportation support. • Conduct events within the localities of the target communities. • Produce accessible and localized project materials. • Collaborate with local community organizations for mobilization. • Use of local language during the meeting.
Persons with Disabilities & Elderly People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited venue accessibility. • Barriers in understanding material formats. • Difficulty traveling to engagement locations. • May not understand the language instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure venues are accessible. • Provide materials in accessible formats. • Use inclusive communication strategies, including local leaders and multiple media platforms using appropriate language. • Partner with organizations supporting disabled and elderly populations.
Marginalized minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of discrimination or exclusion. • Limited access to mainstream communication channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage local leaders to promote inclusion. • Conduct targeted outreach and exclusive engagement events. • Provide accessible materials in suitable formats.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with NGOs and community leaders representing marginalized groups.
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2.4 Stakeholder mapping

The LARACI project covers five regions in the Center-East of Côte d'Ivoire: Iffou, Moronou and N'Zi, which are administratively dependent on the district of Lacs, the region of La Mé (in particular, the department of Akoupé) which is part of the district of Lagunes, and the region of Gbêkê in the district of Vallée du Bandama (see Table 2). These regions belong to Agro-pole 4, as defined in the National Agricultural Investment Plan II. These are areas where many rural communities live, whose main activity is agriculture.

TABLE 2: ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS COVERED BY LARACI

DISTRICTS	REGIONS	REGIONAL CAPITALS	DEPARTMENTS
District des Lacs	Iffou	Daoukro	Daoukro; M'Bahiakro; Prikro
	Moronou	Bongouanou	Bongouanou; Arrah; M'Batto
	N'Zi	Dimbokro	Dimbokro; Bocanda; Kouassi-Kouassikro
District des Lagunes	La Mé	Adzopé	Adzopé; Akoupé; Alepe; Yakasse-Atobrou
District de la Vallée du Bandama	Gbêkê	Bouaké	Bouaké; Béoumi; Botro; Sakassou

The population of center-east and center regions of Côte d'Ivoire are cosmopolitan. They belong to different ethnic groups and backgrounds. The Iffou region is mostly composed of Baoulé and Agni groups, the Agni group is majority in Moronou, the Baoulé group in N'Zi and Gbêkê, and the Akyé groups in La Mé. These communities host non-native populations (Malinké, Yacouba, Bron, Senoufo, etc.) and other foreigners (Burkinabés, Malians, Ghanaians, etc.) on their territory.

Throughout Côte d'Ivoire, Islam and Christianity are the main religions practiced – as well as in the five targeted regions. Other non-Orthodox religions are also represented, such as animism and Buddhism.

Multiple tactics will be necessary to engage the project's different stakeholder groups that range from international and national actors to local authorities and communities in the five target regions. The engagement approach is three-pronged depending on the interest of the different stakeholders:

1. **Engage:** High-priority stakeholders are most likely to be impacted by GCF-financed activity. As “key” stakeholders, they will be regular participants in dialogue and negotiation processes, partnerships, joint fact-finding exercises and the like. These include:
 - Community-level beneficiaries:
 - Farmers and rural communities
 - Women and youth associations

- Private Sector Agribusinesses including SMEs
- Government agencies that are actively engaged in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) including MINETE as the national designated authority (NDA) (and Chair of PSC), MINADER PV, and other related government entities benefiting from capacity development and technical assistance etc.
- Local authorities in the five targeted regions
- Financial institutions (including agricultural banks and lending institutions) which benefit from the project's technical assistance
- Local authorities in the five targeted regions
- Executing Entities (FIRCA and AfricaRice)
- Service Providers (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, IITA).
- Other procured parties supporting the implementation of activities selected during implementation through a competitive procurement process.

2. **Communicate:** This stakeholder group has a high degree of interest in the activity, a willingness to engage, and/or expertise on a relevant subject matter but are not as directly impacted as “key” stakeholders. Communication with this group can involve soliciting feedback via surveys or focus groups, sending newsletters or social media updates, or sharing invitations to specific types of activities or meetings. Examples of stakeholders in this group are provided in Table 2 below.

TABLE 3: STAKEHOLDERS WITH HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST, WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE AND/OR EXPERTISE ON RELEVANT SUBJECT MATTERS AS IT RELATES TO THE LARACI COMPONENTS AND OUTPUTS.

COMPONENT	OUTPUT	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS (including but not limited to)
1	Output 1.1: Access to climate information and advice	SODEXAM, universities, SMN, CNRA, ANADER, MINADER PV, NMS, ESA, AGRHYMET, INP-HB GreenHubs, the media (for dissemination of information) and University Center for Research and Application in Remote Sensing (CURAT), National Committee for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information (CNTIG), Ministry of Family, Women and Children (MFFE)
	Output 1.2: Extension and regulatory system have increased capacity	MINADER PV, MINETE, ANADER, NMS, CNRA, AGRHYMET, SMN, universities, INP-HB, WASCAL, ESA IMPACTUM, Ministry of the Interior, ARDCI, IFDC, OPA (Organization of Agricultural Producers), UVICOCI, ADERIZ, FIACER, MFFE
	Output 1.3: Capacity to access financial services	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Ministry of Economy and Finance, Youth Employment Agency, FERREAD, Ministry of Family, Women, and Children, MINETE, MINADER PV, NGOs, private sector financial institutions, Interbranch, DOPA, Agribusiness regional councils

2	Output 2.1: Integrated system for land and agroforestry	MINETE, universities, CNRA, MINADER PV, ANADER, NGOs, CGIAR IMPACTUM, Ministry of the Interior and Security, BNETD, local authorities, MIS/DG DDL, ARDCI, UVICOCI, ENSEA or INS, Civil Society Convention, Centre Suisse, INADES
3	Output 3.1: Access to CSA technologies	ME-MINDAERP, ANADER, MINETE, ADERIZ, Livestock and Fisheries, CNRA, universities, Centre Suisse, private sector, private industry Greenscoops, Ministry of the Interior, UVICOCI, ARDCI, FIPME, MFFE, GGGI

3. **Inform:** This stakeholder group may be less interested in conversations or negotiation processes but still wish to receive information and updates about a project activity. This stakeholder group includes:
- The local population, including consumers
 - Private sector investors in agriculture (e.g., commodity marketing companies)
 - Farmer groups interested in climate adaptation
 - Organizations promoting farming interests of women, youth, persons with disabilities or persons with special needs
 - Professionals involved in international development or climate change adaptation initiatives

3 Summary of stakeholder consultations undertaken during project preparation phase

Effective stakeholder engagement has been at the core of LARACI's project design process. Dialogue with stakeholders began early in project preparation. From the outset, consultations were organized to ensure that the perspectives of government institutions, local authorities, research organizations, private sector actors, civil society, and producer organizations were integrated into project design.

The first major consultation took place in Abidjan on 20–21 September 2022, with more than 50 participants representing ministries, international organizations, private sector actors, and civil society. This workshop provided the foundation for identifying priority challenges in the N'Zi region, including land degradation, recurrent bushfires, illegal mining, declining soil fertility, and youth migration. Stakeholders validated the relevance of proposed project components, the need for soil fertility management, climate information services, extension systems, agricultural finance, and climate-smart value chains, and confirmed their alignment with Côte d'Ivoire's development priorities, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and its GCF country programme.

A series of follow-up consultations were conducted in 2023 and 2024 with national and local authorities, decentralized technical services, farmer groups, youth and women's associations, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), research institutions, civil society, and development partners. This engagement served to deepen understanding of community needs; gather ideas

about the most appropriate approaches to communication and engagement; and refine the stakeholder map and engagement strategy as well as gender and social inclusion considerations; and review environmental and social risk mitigation options. These insights were integrated into the CN design to ensure that the project responds to national development priorities and community needs while aligning with the adaptation objectives under Côte d'Ivoire's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The consultations helped validate the project's theory of change, identify climate-resilience priorities, clarify roles and responsibilities for implementation, and integrate community-driven innovations and concerns. The feedback received during this process was essential for improving project design and increasing ownership, inclusiveness, and sustainability.

During end of 2024 and during the course of 2025, the AE, the NDA, and the two EEs (AfricaRice and FIRCA) and service providers (IITA, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT) engaged closely through high-level and technical level collaboration to co-design the final version of the CN (v.4) that was endorsed by GCF in March 2025, and to jointly draft the present funding proposal. This included visits by stakeholders from Côte d'Ivoire to the campuses of AfricaRice in Bouake and of IITA in Ibadan to exchange on and showcase the CGIAR CSA technologies to be scaled through LARACI.

On 5 August 2025, at the end of the Funding Proposal co-design process FIRCA, MINETE/NDA, and CGIAR convened a multi-stakeholder consultation at FIRCA's offices in Abidjan. This meeting served to validate the refined project design, and overarching principles for engagement approaches to ensure inclusiveness and cultural relevance. As a result of this final consultation, the no-objection letter for the GCF Funding Proposal was signed by the NDA as well as a joint-commitment of the Executing Entities to deliver on the project's objectives targeting the ultimate interest of the beneficiaries.

Table 4 and Table 5 below summarize the key stages, participants, issues raised, and outcomes of the consultation process.

TABLE 4: MAIN STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ROUNDS

LOCATION & DATE	PARTICIPANTS	FOCUS	KEY SUGGESTIONS / OUTCOMES
Abidjan – Cocody (20–21 September 2022)	>50 stakeholders (ministries, private sector, CSOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of project rationale and components - Breakout sessions on soil systems, CIS, CSA finance, extension, value chains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital soil mapping - Expanded agromet stations - Involve Women's Ministry - Build CSA capacity - Add components on environmental education and M&E
Grand-Bassam (22 September 2022)	38 SMEs and cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate impact on agricultural productivity - Presentation of CSA and survey findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand for CSA financing - Capacity building for SMEs - Strengthen cooperatives - Focus on crops: cassava, yam, rice

Bocanda (23 September 2022)	Local authorities, women & youth reps, technical staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots feedback on local priorities and project alignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for irrigated rice valleys - Add yam (Kponan), vegetables - Address bushfires, promote biochar species - Build youth/women capacity and access to land & finance
Abidjan (29 May- 2 June 2023)	NDA/MINETE CGIAR, and GGGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint review of project components - Project implementation arrangements and governance structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for integration of a forestry/agroforestry component - Suggestions to amplify county ownership and the role of national institutions
Bocanda (June 2024)	CGIAR, community reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authority and feedback from potential beneficiaries to confirm and validate project alignment with local needs and priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified priority issues: soil degradation, erratic rainfall, pest pressure - Confirmation of project design alignment with local needs and priorities
Stakeholders visit to IITA campus Ibadan, Nigeria (16-18 June 2025)	FIRCA, MINADER PV, ANADER, CNRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange on LARACI components and implementation arrangements - Showcase and exchange on IITA CSA technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deepened collaboration with FIRCA in LARACI funding proposal co-design - Exchange on IITA CSA technologies to scale through LARACI

TABLE 5: HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS

LOCATION & Date	PARTICIPANTS	OBJECTIVES / FOCUS	KEY OUTCOMES
June 2024 – Abidjan	MINETE, MINADER PV, FIRCA, CGIAR, GGGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share revised concept note - Review implementation arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement on overall implementation arrangement and Executing Entities (CGIAR & FIRCA) - Extend project to Gbêkê - Identified priority issues: soil degradation, erratic rainfall, pest pressure
December 2024 – Abidjan	CGIAR, MINETE/NDA, FIRCA, Project Design Committee members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize project governance framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defined coordination model: CGIAR System Organization = Accredited Entity FIRCA = Co-Executing Entity (Outputs 1.1, 1.2 & 3.1) CGIAR Center = Co-Executing Entity (Outputs 1.3 & 2.1) MINETE = strategic oversight and PSC chair
January 2025 – Virtual	CGIAR (IITA, AfricaRice) MINETE/NDA, FIRCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm readiness for GCF Concept Note resubmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement on roles & responsibilities

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timeline confirmed for resubmission of CN to GCF - Technical team set up for funding proposal co-development
August 2025 - Abidjan	MINETE/NDA, FIRCA, CGIAR (CGIAR System Organization, AfricaRice, IITA, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Validate the Funding Proposal package for submission - Signature of joint commitment of partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Validation of Funding Proposal package for submission and Signature of NDA no-objection letter - Timeline for submission and target approval confirmed

A summary of the main recommendations received and integrated into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is provided in Appendix 1 of this document.

4 Stakeholder engagement program

4.1 Stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle

To ensure effective stakeholder participation, the LARACI project will implement a structured engagement plan throughout the project's lifecycle. Engagement activities will be carried out at different stages, focusing on information sharing, consultation, and feedback collection to align project implementation with stakeholder expectations and concerns.

Table 6 below outlines the key consultation topics, methods used, target stakeholders, and responsible entities across different project stages.

TABLE 6: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN ACROSS THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE PROJECT

PROJECT STAGE	ESTIMATED DATE/TIME PERIOD	TOPIC OF CONSULTATION/ MESSAGE	METHOD USED	TARGET STAKEHOLDERS	RESPONSIBILITIES
Project preparation phase (CN and FP development)	Sept 2022 – Aug 2025	Needs assessment, project priorities, implementation arrangements and co-design	Official meetings, workshops, community consultations	NDA (MINETE) and other key Government agencies, EEs and prospective service providers, local authorities, local communities, vulnerable groups (women, youth)	CGIAR System Organization (AE), NDA/MINETE, FIRCA, CGIAR Centers (AfricaRice, ABC, IITA), GGGI

Project Initiation	Within 3 months of funded activity agreement (FAA) effectiveness	Overview of LARACI Project, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), environmental and social (E&S) risks & mitigation measures	Official meetings, workshops, official letters, community consultations	Government agencies, prospective service providers, local communities, vulnerable groups (women, youth)	EEs (FIRCA and AfricaRice) and service providers
Project Implementation	Throughout the project duration	CSA innovations, policy discussions and capacity building, stakeholder feedback collection	Policy briefs, reports, virtual meetings, one-on-one meetings, emails, newsletters, radio discussions, focus group discussions	Government agencies, NGOs, agribusinesses, farmers, vulnerable groups (women, youth)	EEs (FIRCA and AfricaRice) and service providers
Project Closure	Leading up to 5 years after FAA effectiveness	Project achievements, lessons learned, recommendations, exit strategy	Websites, virtual or in-person meetings, workshops, email communications	Government agencies, NGOs, smallholder farmers, agribusiness, vulnerable groups (women, youth)	EEs (FIRCA and AfricaRice) and service providers

4.2 Disclosure of information

The LARACI project will ensure that all stakeholders receive relevant project information through multiple channels to enhance transparency and engagement. The disclosed information will include overall project activities, timeline, and targeted beneficiaries, as well as key E&S safeguards tools such as the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) (see Annex 6) and SEP including GRM, and Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan (see Annex 8).

To reach a diverse range of stakeholders, information will be disseminated through official meetings and workshops at national, regional, and district levels, where project scope, objectives, and stakeholder roles will be discussed in participatory sessions. At the community level, face-to-face consultations, focus group discussions, and radio announcements will be conducted to ensure local participation, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Throughout the project lifecycle, reports and newsletters will be shared via emails and online platforms, and updates will be presented during community meetings and stakeholder

consultations. To further support knowledge dissemination, policy briefs, discussion papers, journal articles, videos, and television and radio broadcasts will be used to provide accessible and informative content on CSA innovations and project progress. Information will be disclosed in local languages where necessary, ensuring accessibility for non-literate stakeholders through interpreters and simplified materials.

Specific instruments, including the GRM, SEP, ESAP, and Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan will be published in reports, posters, flyers, and banners to enhance visibility and stakeholder awareness. At the conclusion of the project, key achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations will be shared through websites, emails, virtual or in-person meetings, as well as community meetings and focus group discussions.

By employing a multi-channel and inclusive disclosure strategy, the LARACI project will ensure that all stakeholders, including vulnerable groups (i.e., women and youth), have access to project-related information in a culturally appropriate, accessible, and gender responsive manner.

4.3 Reporting back to stakeholders

Stakeholders will be kept informed as the project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance and implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and GRM, and on the project's overall implementation progress.

4.4 Roles and responsibilities

The EEs, FIRCA and AfricaRice, will be in charge of stakeholder engagement activities at the overall project level including the activity-level GRM. The AE will conduct the necessary due diligence and oversight to confirm that these requirements are fulfilled.

It is important to note that several budgeted activities, including stakeholder engagement forums (PSC, launch, progress and closing workshops), dissemination efforts (e.g., newsletters, blogs), and training activities contribute to the project's broader communication strategy. These serve dual purposes and will be implemented in coordination with the project's overarching communication and knowledge dissemination strategy.

4.5 Monitoring and reporting of stakeholder engagement

The SEP for LARACI will be systematically monitored to ensure effective, inclusive, and transparent engagement with stakeholders. Dedicated EE staff will oversee the monitoring process using key performance indicators (KPIs) to track progress and improve engagement efforts.

Key monitoring areas will include stakeholder engagement activities, including number and diversity of stakeholders participating in various engagements and at what levels. Information dissemination will be assessed by tracking the distribution of project materials, public information boards, and local language translations. The performance of the GRM will be evaluated based on the number of grievances received and resolved, response times, and complainant satisfaction. Additionally, stakeholder feedback and lessons learned will be recorded and integrated through adaptations to the SEP, adaptive project management, and incorporation into the exit strategy as relevant.

Stakeholders will actively contribute to the monitoring process through community-based monitoring, where local representatives provide direct feedback on engagement activities. Regular stakeholder feedback mechanisms, including surveys and participatory evaluations, will assess the effectiveness of engagement efforts. Furthermore, joint reviews involving government agencies, NGOs, and community representatives will ensure transparency and continuous improvement of the SEP implementation and adaptive management of the project.

5 Grievance redress mechanism (GRM)

5.1 Objectives and principles

The objective of the GRM is to establish and maintain a process to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns or grievances in connection with the LARACI project. The GRM process includes three channels for receiving complaints: at GCF, AE, and activity (EE levels). It includes a system for recording complaints and defines the roles and responsibilities with the objective of resolving complaints and grievances in a timely, effective, and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved.

The GRM is a constructive process based on the following principles of:

- Accessibility;
- Fairness;
- Transparency; and
- In the case of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH)-specific complaints, the process is also survivor-centered and gender-responsive.

5.2 Types of grievances

The different types of grievances that can arise can have the following characteristics:

- Concerns and grievances about the environmental and social performance of GCF-financed activities.
- SEAH-related grievances.
- Concerns and grievances concerning failure to Implement AE Operational Policies and Procedures.

5.3 Grievance redress mechanism channels

A complainant affected by the project may file a grievance or complaint through the GRM at the three levels mentioned above, each with their own dedicated set of channels for complainants to submit grievances:

- **GCF:** Use of their Independent Redress Mechanism.
- **AE-level mechanism:** The CGIAR System Organization receives complaints through reporting mechanisms via an anonymous hotline or confidential email at ethics@cgiar.org. These reporting channels are available to everyone: staff, partners, contractors, suppliers, and anyone else who interacts with CGIAR, including the public at large and are published on the CGIAR website: <https://ethics.cgiar.org/report-a-concern/>.

- **Activity level GRM:** To complement the GCF and AE mechanisms, the project will include an activity level GRM embedded within the processes of the two EEs (AfricaRice and FIRCA) that can manage ESS and SEAH-related complaints appropriately. The channels to receive complaints at this level will be culturally appropriate and gender-responsive. Channels will include:
 - Dedicated phone and e-mail.
 - Complaint form that can be lodged via the websites of the EEs.
 - Walk-ins may register a complaint in a grievance logbook at a facility or suggestion box.

5.4 GRM process and resolution

The GRM system will be handled through a process overseen by dedicated institutional focal points for compliance, ESS, and SEAH. The process includes the following steps:

1. Receipt of grievance through the channels defined above;
2. Registry and categorization;
3. Acknowledgement of receipt to complainant;
4. Verification and investigation;
5. Measures to respond to the grievances (as needed based on conclusion of step 4); and
6. Monitoring and reporting of grievances received through the mechanism and actions taken to resolve them as part of APRs.

5.5 Protocol for handling sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) cases

5.5.1 Survivor-centered approach

The project adopts a **survivor-centered, confidential, and gender-responsive approach** to the prevention and management of SEA/SH complaints through the activity-level GRM. All actions shall prioritize the dignity, safety, rights, and informed choices of survivors, with the objective of supporting their protection, healing, and recovery.

In this regard, the project will ensure that:

- Survivors are treated with dignity, respect, and non-discrimination at all stages of case management. Their needs, rights, and preferences will guide all decisions, and assistance will never be imposed.
- Survivors retain full agency and informed choice regarding whether to pursue further action, except in cases involving minors where mandatory reporting obligations under national legislation apply.
- In cases involving children, the best interests of the child principle shall prevail.
- Survivor safety, security, and protection from retaliation are paramount throughout the process.
- All SEA/SH information will be handled with strict confidentiality, and disclosure to third parties will occur only with the survivor's informed consent.
- Survivors will receive clear information enabling informed decision-making regarding available support and options.

- Personnel managing SEA/SH cases will be trained in **culturally appropriate, trauma-informed, and non-judgmental handling** of complaints.

5.5.2 Intake and registration of SEA/SH complaints

All GRM channels described in Section 5.3 will be open to SEA/SH complaints. When a survivor reports an incident:

- Complaints will be recorded in a private and secure setting by designated Safeguard/SEAH Focal Persons only.
- To protect confidentiality and minimize stigmatization, only essential information will be documented, including:
 - Age and sex of survivor.
 - Type of alleged incident (as reported).
 - Whether the alleged perpetrator is associated with the project.
 - Whether referral to services was provided.

SEA/SH cases will be reported to the AE and relevant oversight bodies within 24 hours, in line with applicable reporting protocols, while ensuring survivor anonymity.

All SEA/SH records will be stored in secure, restricted-access logbooks maintained exclusively by designated focal persons.

Where complaints are submitted by third parties, focal persons will encourage direct survivor engagement while respecting confidentiality and survivor autonomy.

5.5.3 Referral and survivor support services

All survivors will be offered referral to appropriate support services, subject to their informed consent (or guardian consent for minors or persons with disabilities). Services may include:

- Medical services: clinical care, forensic examination, post-exposure treatment.
- Psychosocial support: counseling, emotional support, and social reintegration.
- Legal support: legal advice, access to justice processes, and representation.
- Safety and protection services: survivor protection measures and risk mitigation.

Service providers linked to the project will:

- Apply established GBV case management protocols.
- Maintain strict confidentiality and survivor-centered standards.
- Notify the project focal person upon case resolution.

The project may provide financial support for essential survivor services, subject to approval procedures and applicable financing guidelines.

5.5.4 Case assessment and resolution process

Upon receipt of a complaint:

1. The GRM will assess whether:
 - The allegation falls within the definition of SEA/SH; and
 - The alleged perpetrator is associated with the project.

2. If confirmed, the case will proceed through referral and appropriate disciplinary or administrative processes.
3. Survivors may choose whether to pursue formal disciplinary action. Regardless of survivor preference, project-related perpetrators will be subject to institutional codes of conduct and national legislation.

Possible disciplinary measures may include warnings, mandatory training, suspension, salary penalties, or termination of employment.

Throughout the process, survivors will continue receiving support services as needed.

5.5.5 Confidentiality, reporting, and follow-up

- The Safeguard/SEAH Focal Person will acknowledge receipt of complaints within three working days.
- Cases will be monitored continuously until closure, in coordination with service providers.
- Mandatory reporting to law enforcement will occur only where required by national law, and survivors will be informed accordingly.

5.5.6 Case closure

SEA/SH cases will be closed when:

- The survivor declines to pursue further action after receiving support;
- The allegation is determined not to fall within SEA/SH scope or project association;
- Appropriate disciplinary actions have been fully implemented; or
- Service providers confirm completion of survivor support.

Closure may include survivor confirmation of satisfaction where appropriate.

5.6 Ensuring capacity of EE

Based on the capacity development needs of each EE, and to ensure that EEs establish and maintain the appropriate GRM systems, tailored training will be provided to staff of EEs, consultants, and contractors, covering, among other things:

- Community sensitization and awareness-raising on gender-based violence (GBV) and SEAH prevention.
- Code of conduct requirements for all project staff, contractors, and partners outlining zero tolerance for SEAH.
- GRMs embedded within the processes of each EE, which can handle SEAH-related complaints appropriately.
- Targeted awareness raising on safety, health, and SEAH to be conducted by environmental and social safeguards (ESS)/SEAH focal points of each EE and local facilitators, including sensitization on ethical conduct and safeguarding responsibilities.
- Inclusive stakeholder engagement processes to ensure women, youth, and marginalized groups have safe spaces to participate and voice concerns.

5.7 GRM tools and instruments

To ensure transparency, consistency, and effective management of grievances, the LARACI Project has developed a set of standardized tools to support the implementation of its GRM. These tools facilitate complaint intake, case documentation, monitoring, reporting, and survivor-centered handling of SEA/SH cases.

Together, these tools enable the project to:

- Ensure standardized grievance handling procedures;
- Protect confidentiality and survivor safety;
- Monitor grievance trends and response performance;
- Strengthen accountability and stakeholder trust.

The GRM tools are summarized below.

A. Complaint Form for Non-SEA/SH Cases (See sample form in Appendix 2)

This form is the primary instrument used to register complaints related to project activities, environmental and social impacts, stakeholder engagement issues, or other operational concerns.

The form enables complainants to:

- Describe the nature of the harm or risk perceived;
- Identify the location and context of the grievance;
- Indicate previous communication with the project;
- Request confidentiality where necessary;
- Provide contact details or submit anonymously.

The form ensures standardized documentation of grievances and facilitates systematic tracking and resolution by GRM focal persons.

B. GBV / SEA-SH intake form (See sample form in Appendix 3)

This confidential intake form is used exclusively for recording SEA/SH complaints in a survivor-centered manner.

It captures essential information required for referral and support while minimizing risks of stigmatization and retraumatization, including:

- Survivor demographic details;
- Description and type of incident;
- Reporting pathway and prior service access;
- Consent for referral and information sharing.

The form is completed only by trained GRM or safeguarding focal persons in secure settings and is subject to strict confidentiality protocols.

C. Complaint acknowledgement letter (Non-SEA/SH) (See sample letter in Appendix 4)

This template is used to formally acknowledge receipt of non-SEA/SH grievances. It:

- Confirms that the complaint has been received;

- Provides information on the GRM process;
- Indicates expected timelines for review;
- Identifies a focal contact person.

This tool promotes transparency and ensures that complainants are informed of next steps.

D. Complaint acknowledgement letter for SEA/SH Cases (See sample letter in Appendix 5)

This specialized acknowledgement letter is designed for SEA/SH complaints and emphasizes:

- Confidential handling of information;
- Survivor rights and informed consent;
- Availability of support services;
- Assurance of non-retaliation.

It reflects international best-practices for survivor-centered communication.

E. Complainant satisfaction form (See sample form in Appendix 6)

This form is used at the final stage of grievance resolution to document whether the complainant is satisfied with the proposed resolution actions.

It includes:

- Confirms closure of the case;
- Records acceptance or rejection of outcomes;
- Supports monitoring of GRM effectiveness.

Completion of this form does not prevent future reopening of cases if new information arises.

F. Grievance log for non-SEA/SH complaints (See sample log in Appendix 7)

This logbook is the central monitoring tool used to track all non-SEA/SH complaints received by the project.

It records:

- Complaint identification details;
- Nature and status of grievances;
- Resolution actions taken;
- Communication with complainants;
- Follow-up measures.

The log ensures accountability, transparency, and systematic reporting of GRM performance.

G. SEA/SH grievance log (See sample log in Appendix 8)

This confidential logbook is used exclusively for SEA/SH cases and maintains anonymized records of:

- Case identification and intake details;
- Referral pathways;
- Survivor consent status;
- Outcomes of support services.

Access to this log is strictly restricted to authorized safeguarding personnel.

H. GBV / SEA-SH service providers directory (See Appendix 9)

This provides a referral directory of GBV and SEA/SH service providers available within Côte d'Ivoire.

It includes:

- Medical, psychosocial, legal, and protection service providers;
- National coordination institutions;
- Emergency hotlines.

The directory supports timely referral and is regularly updated to ensure service availability and effectiveness.

Appendix 1: Record of stakeholder consultations held during the project preparation phase

To develop the project concept note (CN), CGIAR and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition (MINEDDTE)¹ and National Designated Authority (NDA) of Côte d'Ivoire received support from the GGGI through a project funded by the Gates Foundation with the objective to increase access to climate finance especially from the GCF. Starting in 2022, MINEDDTE, in collaboration with CGIAR and GGGI, organized a series of stakeholder consultation workshops and other engagements with key actors of the agricultural sector in Côte d'Ivoire that marked the initiation of a co-design process of the LARACI concept note submitted to GCF. The CN was later refined into the present Funding Proposal through a co-design process in close collaboration between CGIAR, FIRCA, and the NDA.

This appendix summarizes the outcomes of this regular engagement and the following formal stakeholder consultation milestones and high-level engagements that took place during the project preparation phase:

- Workshop Abidjan-Cocody Stakeholders' Consultation (September 2022)
- Stakeholder consultation in Bassam (September 2022)
- Consultation of the local communities of Bocanda and field visit (September 2022)
- Stakeholder consultation meetings Abidjan (May 2023)
- Stakeholder consultation and community engagement mission (June 2024)
- NDA visit to AfricaRice campus, Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire (August 2024)
- Co-design engagement (December 2024, January 2025)
- Stakeholder visit to IITA campus, Ibadan, Nigeria (June 2025)
- Stakeholder validation meeting in Abidjan (August 2025)

This appendix outlines the outcomes of each of these consultation sessions in the sections that follow below.

The overall objective of these consultation workshops was to collect comments/feedback, suggestions, and recommendations from national and local stakeholders on the project idea and to incorporate their inputs into project design and implementation arrangements. Furthermore, it aimed to ensure project ownership by the country counterparts.

Generally, the workshops were structured around the following topics:

- Presentation of the origin of the ideas around the project and its objectives and rationale
- Discussion and prioritization of the project components and theory of change
- Co-design of the implementation arrangements and governance structure for the implementation of the project.
- Gathering of comments, suggestions, and recommendations

¹ Now Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (MINETE)

- Presentation of the project preparation process and next steps.

Abidjan- Cocody Stakeholder Consultation Workshop 20-21 September 2022

The first stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 20-21 September 2022 in Abidjan. Overall, more than 50 people attended the workshop, comprising representatives from key ministries, international organizations, representatives, private sector, and civil society. The ceremony was chaired by [REDACTED], GGGI Climate Finance Program Manager and Project Manager.

Opening Ceremony and Remarks

- **Introductory remarks from [REDACTED], NDA Focal Point of the GCF for Côte d'Ivoire, MINEDDTE**

In his address, [REDACTED] indicated that, at the request of the leaders of the city of Bocanda, the Prime Minister instructed his ministers to present a "local territory" project for agriculture for the greater N'Zi region. To this end, GGGI and CGIAR were invited given their expertise to carry out this project which must be designed in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) to "contribute" to the achievement of the NDCs and also be aligned with the requirements of the GCF. The N'Zi region constituted the first cocoa-coffee area in the 1970s, but over the years its land has been in an advanced state of degradation due to deforestation and climate change. There is therefore an urgent need for action. It is important to note that this project is one of the national priorities for GCF. Côte d'Ivoire, like all other sub-Saharan countries, is very impacted by climate change and needs are enormous. For this purpose, a directorate for the mobilization of financing has been created within the MINEDDTE to initiate all project ideas in this area. He also informed that the updating of the country program for the GCF is under way and will be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

- **[REDACTED], GGGI Côte d'Ivoire Country Representative**

In her address, [REDACTED] underlined that small-scale producers are very vulnerable to climate change. A decrease of 5 to 25% in production will be noted over the next few years if no measures are taken. Therefore, the economic cost of climate change in Côte d'Ivoire could be estimated at 380 to 770 billion XAF. The effects of the COVID-19 crisis have also worsened the dependence of African countries on primary and natural resources and biodiversity. With only 11% of bank loans directed to agriculture, these actions can only be carried out through green investments that support the sustainable use of resources, nature-based solutions, the green economy, and in particular climate-smart agriculture. The GCF is an important source of funds to carry out climate actions but a need for capacity building is felt and accredited entities are not always available in countries. In this context, the Gates Foundation supports GGGI and CGIAR to develop this GCF CN in partnership with MINEDDTE to support the resilience of small-scale farmers. The project aims to create jobs for young people and women in

specific targeted areas that have been affected by climate change in Côte d'Ivoire. This partnership will also ensure alignment with national priorities and that the project contributes to the objectives of the country's NDCs.

- **[REDACTED], Mayor of Bocanda**

From the outset, the mayor expressed his joy and honor to be present at this workshop. He began his address with a presentation of the city of Bocanda in these terms:

"Bocanda is located in the center of Côte d'Ivoire. This city was part of the old cocoa-coffee area that boomed in the 1970s." The mayor pointed out that the development of these sectors and climate change have exerted strong pressure on land, arable land, and soil fertility, which has led to a migration of populations to more fertile areas. Also, he added that the scourge of illegal gold panning has a strong impact on the landscape and the contamination of groundwater. In the face of all these challenges, it was imperative to seek opportunities for land development and create green jobs to retain youth. Youth migration is the major challenge facing Bocanda. The mayor therefore expressed his gratitude to MINEDDTE for agreeing to their request for this project; he also thanked the GGGI and CGIAR for their technical assistance and he underlined that the city of Bocanda is ready to take all possible measures to ensure that the project takes place in the best conditions.

- **[REDACTED], Vice-President of the N'Zi Regional Council**

In his capacity as Vice-President of the regional council, [REDACTED] emphasized the important place of the project area where the coffee-cocoa sector in previous decades has generated environmental and social problems. In the 1970s, the area experienced the largest forest fire in its history. These fires have contributed not only to the degradation of fertile land but also to the migration of populations to other fertile lands, elsewhere in Côte d'Ivoire. These bushfire phenomena are recurrent in the N'Zi region. For him, the challenges for this region include the need to map existing scattered forests and forest islands along the N'Zi river for forest restoration, bushfire management, agroforestry development, water systems management for both agriculture and fishing activities, as well as tackling illegal gold mining activities destroying forest lands.

- **[REDACTED], Principal Scientist at CGIAR and technical lead of the project**

[REDACTED] made a presentation about CGIAR, an integrated partnership that has conducted research-for-development activities in the agriculture sector for more than 50 years, present in 108 countries. The CGIAR partnership consists of 15 international research centers that contribute to five impact areas: climate adaptation and mitigation, environmental health and biodiversity, nutrition, food security, and poverty reduction. Subsequently, the vision and achievements of CGIAR were presented.

Among CGIAR's achievements, its improved rice through AfricaRice was highlighted, as well as the orange-fleshed sweet potato, and the conservation of more than 770,000 genetic materials through the gene bank. In the fight against climate change, CGIAR has carried out research in various countries to generate climate-resilient innovations and

practices (e.g. testing the use of seasonal forecasts with producers for better climate risk management in Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso).

▪ **Presentation of the concept note initial design**

presented the initial design of the concept note. He indicated that this project, based on consultation with MINEDDTE and GGGI, is aligned with the Government's Legacy Program and contributes to Côte d'Ivoire's Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (CSAIP). Côte d'Ivoire is ranked 145 out of 181 countries on the ND-GAIN climate change vulnerability index. An illustration of that is the lack of climate information, the difficulties of access to finance, and the absence of climate-smart value chains that limit the agrifood sector's ability to adapt to observed and projected climate change.

The project will aim to address this by implementing climate-adapted agricultural innovation interventions, consisting of field actions that are in line with the NDCs and the PNIA.

The project aims to achieve 5 main results through the following components:

1. National soil fertility system
2. National agrometeorological systems
3. National agricultural extension system
4. Agricultural finance services and products
5. Climate-smart value chains based on priority crops

The session continued with two breakout group discussions, during which participants provided feedback and suggestions on the project's components, planned activities, and potential service providers.

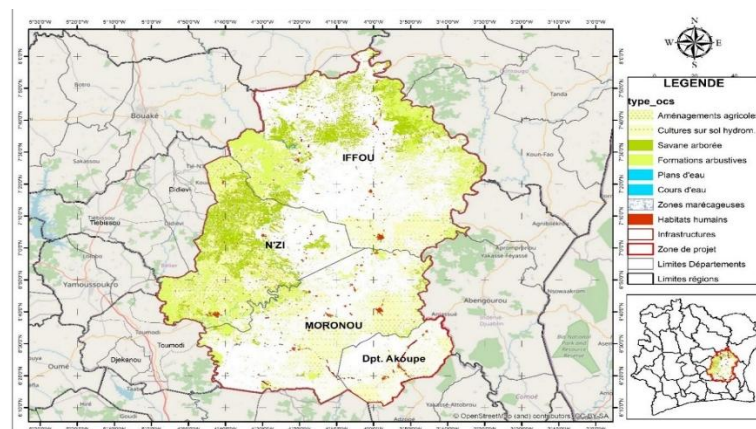


FIGURE 1: PROJECT TARGETED REGIONS²

² Based on later consultation discussions, Gbêkê was added to the targeted regions.

Breakout Group discussions – Part 1

This group discussion was meant to provide input and suggestions regarding the project's components and proposed activities. Table 1 below summarizes the different suggestions and recommendations that came out of the breakout group discussions.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS

PROJECT COMPONENTS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS
Component 1 - National soil fertility system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop soil mapping and update information on the soil • Set up a digital information system to collect information on soil fertility levels • For the implementation of Activities 1.1 and 1.2: national tours, local radios, relay bridges (Village Chiefdoms involvements) are needed • Map initiatives, actors, and innovations already happening on the ground • Include an activity related to strengthening extension staff • Specify the capacities to be strengthened (equipment, technique, etc.) • Have an explanation or illustration of the deficiencies found
Component 2 - National agrometeorological systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of weather stations in project areas to produce rainfall data or use spatial data • Leverage available existing data collection infrastructure • Include civil society and the private sector as co-implementers of this component • Expand the data collection network • Provide technical assistance / training to producers / farmers (use of climate data, etc.)
Component 3 - National agricultural extension system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and evaluate the extension system • Strengthen the technical capacity of CSA extension workers • Promote CSA recommendations through clearly developed dissemination channels • Upgrade infrastructure and equipment based on specific needs to support extension services
Component 4 - Agricultural finance services and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place incentives to reduce risks • Set up a national bank for climate • Strengthen the capacities of MFIs in the agricultural sectors • Strengthen the capacity of Agricultural Producers' Organizations (APOs) and its members to access finance • Strengthen the capacities of financing institutions (banking and microfinance), agricultural producers and local units • Encourage financing structures to facilitate access to climate finance • Foster a policy environment for the provision of financial services to producers and associated value chains • Reduce risks related to having access to financial products and services • Include financial education/training of producers/farmers • Include a sub-activity on structuring/supporting the organization of farmers in cooperatives • Provide reliable data (data on agricultural production) • Raise awareness of becoming a producer organization to obtain financial services and products
Component 5 - Climate-smart value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult final beneficiaries to identify crops that are adapted to their environment and diet • Reformulating capacity building for marketing organizations

chains based on priority crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate and professionalize marketing organizations
Other Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create two new components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Component 6 –Environmental education - Awareness-raising campaigns on environmental protection reforestation activities ○ Component 7 – Monitoring and evaluation

Breakout Group discussions – Part 2

This session, chaired by the NDA, aimed to propose potential national co-implementers of the project alongside CGIAR. To this end, suggestions were made by both the private, public, and civil society organizations that were present. Table 2 below summarizes input from participants for each component of the initial proposal serving as key input for the stakeholder mapping exercise.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS

COMPONENTS	PARTNERS' SUGGESTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT
Component 1: National Soil Fertility System	IMPACTUM, Ministry of the Interior and Security, BNEDT, Local authorities, MIS/DG DDL, ARDCI, UVICOCI, ENSEA or INS, Civil Society Convention, Centre Suisse, INADES, Ministry of Family, Women and Children (MFFE)
Component 2: National Agrometeorological System	GreenHubs, media (For the dissemination of information), CURAT (University Center for Research and Application in Remote Sensing), CNTIG (National Committee for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information), Ministry of the Family, Women and Children (MFFE)
Component 3: National Climate-Smart Agricultural Extension System	IMPACTUM, Ministry of the Interior, ARDCI, IFDC, OPA (Organization of Agricultural Producers), UVICOCI, FIRCA, ADERIZ, FIACER, Ministry of Family, Women and Children (MFFE)
Component 4: Climate-smart agricultural finance services and products	Ministry of Economy and Finance, Youth Employment Agency, FERREAD, Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family, regional councils
Component 5: Climate-smart value chains based on priority crops	Greenscoops, Ministry of the Interior, UVICOCI, ARDCI, FIPME, Ministry of Family, Women and Children (MFFE)

Intervention on raising awareness on the use of improved cookstoves

■ [REDACTED], Director General of SAPPHYRE RD

In addition, the workshop included an awareness session from [REDACTED] on the use of improved stoves in Côte d'Ivoire. With 80 to 90% of households using firewood (wood and charcoal), use of improved cook stoves (ICS), particularly mud-brick ICS with and without chimney, is one of the most simple, inexpensive, and best technologies designed to improve combustion efficiency of biomass and reduce exposure to indoor air pollution.

The frequent use of wood and charcoal has a negative impact on the health of users,

predominantly women. According to the WHO in 2019, Côte d'Ivoire recorded 200,000 deaths due to the use of firewood or traditional three-legged stoves. In addition to this, the use of firewood is an important driver of deforestation and an important contributor to global warming.

Overall, the benefit of ICS includes increased thermal efficiency, improved health, conservation of forests by reducing fuel wood consumption, reduction in indoor air pollution and hence smoke-related health disorders, and prevention of fire hazards.

To this end, a national program will be set up to reach out to each region and district of Côte d'Ivoire to explain to its citizens the need for clean and safer cooking energy. The goal is to achieve 200,000 improved stoves per year. Additionally, there is a need to create a laboratory that could test and certify improved cook stoves before commercialization. The launch of this national program for the utilization of improved cook stoves will take place in October 2022 in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), thus potential synergies can be explored.

Stakeholder consultation workshop in Bassam (22 September 2022)

The second stakeholders' consultation workshop took place on 22 September 2022 in Grand-Bassam. This time, the participants included agricultural private sector including SMEs, farmers' groups, and cooperatives from different value chains (figure 2) as well as representatives of key ministries.

Introductory remarks

A welcoming speech was delivered by the representative of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development. The workshop took place in an interactive manner, which allowed participants to give their opinion on various topics before, in-between, and following the various presentations.

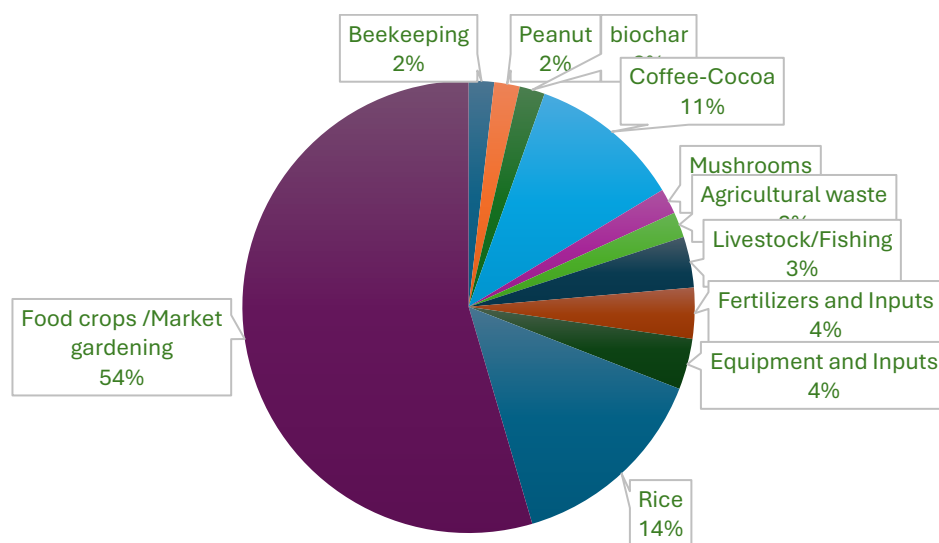


FIGURE 2: PROFILE OF THE SMES THAT ATTENDED THE WORKSHOP

Presentation of SMEs survey results

After the welcoming speech, Green Invest Africa (consultancy firm) presented the results of the pre-workshop study questionnaire. The related questionnaire had been shared two weeks before the workshop with the various private sector actors from the agricultural industry and small-scale producers or cooperatives/SMEs active in several value chains (cassava, yam, plantain banana, rice, vegetables, maize, mushrooms, honey, coffee, and cocoa). In total, 64 SMEs responded to this survey either by phone or online.

The results indicated that the main agricultural productivity challenges related to climate change are drought, floods, and change in precipitation patterns resulting in low yield.

The suggested solutions presented to the respondents included climate-smart agriculture practices to increase soil fertility and agroecology activities, amongst others.

Climate change is already observed in the central and coastal regions of Côte d'Ivoire

In the discussions that followed the presentation of the survey's results, several cooperatives and small-scale producers and transformers of cassava from various regions of the country including the central, north, and coastal regions shared their experience on how climate change was already negatively impacting their activities. From their perspective, drought and changes in rainfall patterns and frequency were already affecting crop health and productivity. Higher temperatures were also affecting the length of growing seasons and accelerating crop maturity resulting in the disruption of the food supply chain. "Côte d'Ivoire is no longer the country of abundant food it used to be", said one of the participants. As an example, small-scale producers who used to sell banana plantain surplus from their farms can no longer do so because of low yields; they barely have enough to feed their households. Additionally, climate change is destroying physical infrastructure, disrupting local socio-economic activities, and affecting crop quality, with new diseases that farmers are not used to.

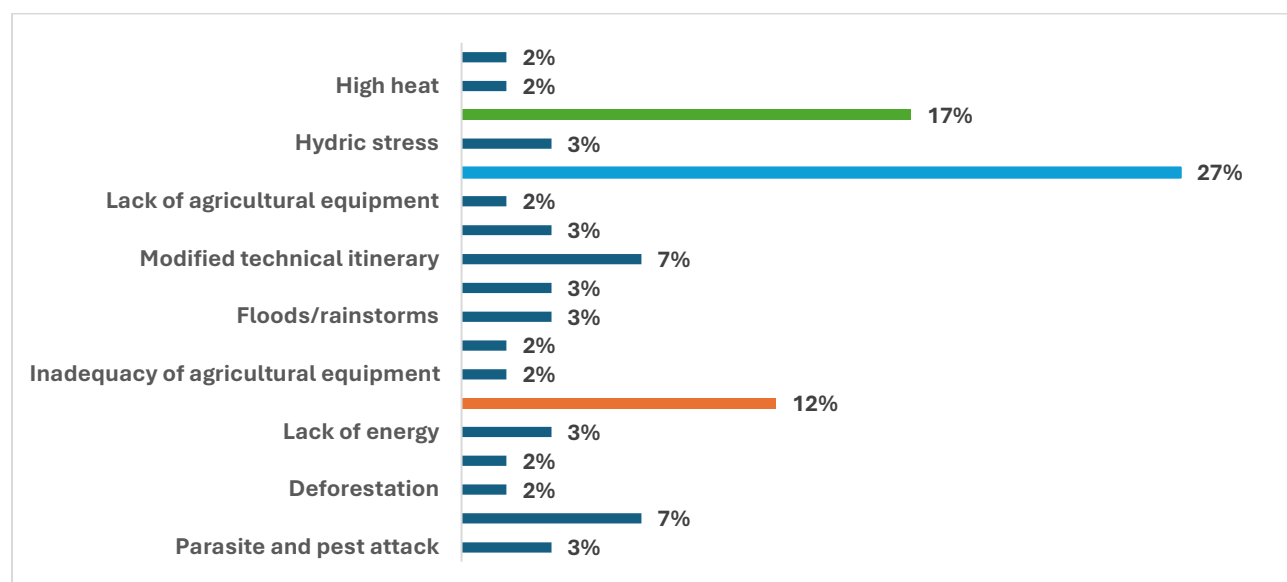


FIGURE 3: CLIMATE CHALLENGES FACED BY SMES

In the coastal areas of Côte d'Ivoire, such as San Pedro, Aboisso, and Grand-Lahou, the impact of climate change includes flood disasters which affect food production and threaten food security. In Grand-Lahou Islands in particular, cassava is turning yellow from its original white color, its tuber is smaller with a lot of fibers and is sometimes rotten by the time of harvest. Additionally, during prolonged droughts, cassava tubers are cooked under the sun before harvesting.

Rice and maize cultivation are also affected by these events. There is currently not enough maize to feed chickens or fish limiting livestock and fish-farming activities.

The destruction of mangroves and coastal erosion

Other challenges included the destruction of the natural ecosystem including the mangroves by agricultural activities. Many thousands of acres of mangrove forest have been destroyed in the coastal regions to make way for rice paddies, rubber trees, palm oil plantations, etc. Additionally, farmers often use fertilizers and chemicals containing pollutants which make their way into water

supplies, causing the death of fish and crabs. The destruction of the mangroves is threatening the food security of the people from the coastal areas.

Other discussions involved providing suggestions. One participant representing youth organizations and another one representing the older generation of small-scale farmers recommended providing new incentives for youth to engage in agricultural activities.

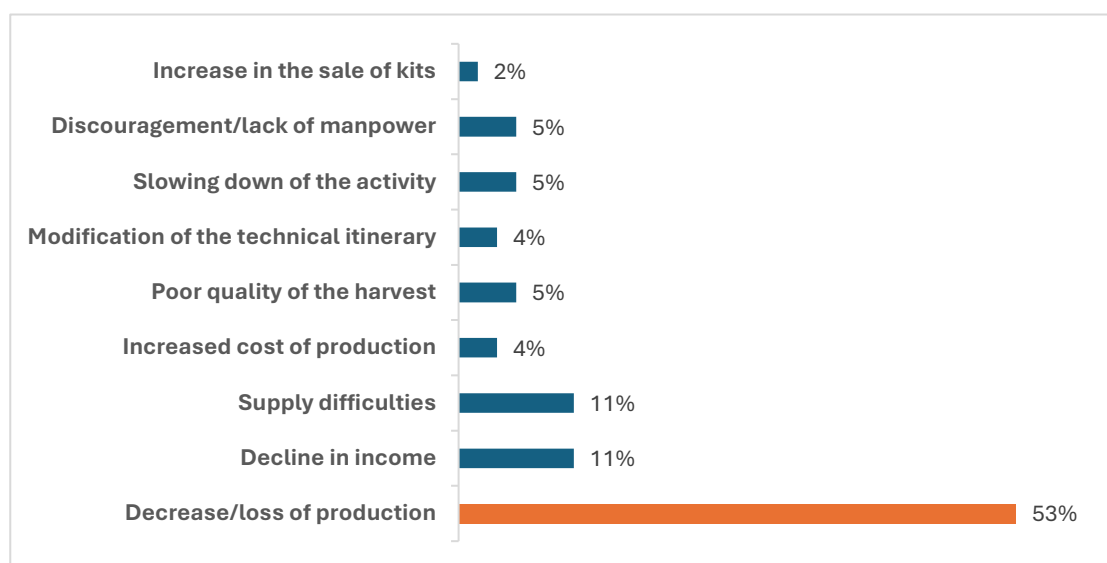


FIGURE 4: IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BUSINESSES.

Climate-Smart Agriculture is the solution

Expanding climate-smart agriculture practices to increase land irrigation, for example, may hold the key for increasing agricultural production for farmers living in regions affected by droughts.

Project presentation

- **Presentation on Climate-Smart Agriculture innovations, [REDACTED], CGIAR – AfricaRice:**

[REDACTED] explained the concept of climate-smart agriculture to the participants and expanded on the various techniques and methods related to it. After highlighting the importance of agriculture for the economy of Côte d'Ivoire, and presenting an overview of arable land and forests, he presented the climate related challenges faced in the agricultural sector, and climate-smart agriculture as an integrated approach to managing landscapes that addresses the challenges of food security and climate change. He then described the various climate smart agriculture technologies to maintain and increase productivity, climate resilience and where appropriate reduce greenhouse gas emissions in rice, cassava and yam-based value chains. This exposure encouraged participants to discuss which technologies would be most locally relevant for addressing the climate-related stresses faced by rice, cassava and yam value chain actors in the project sites. He then suggested that the next steps

involve promoting and disseminating these climate-smart solutions; this in turn requires the commitment of all the stakeholders starting with the private sector. Finally, he recommended that there should be an effective coordination mechanism among the various actors involved for the proper management of resources and the co-design and scaling of climate-smart agricultural practices.

- **Project component presentation:**

GGGI informed the participants that the project is being developed by CGIAR in close partnership with MINEDDTE to mobilize financial resources from the GCF. It will be implemented in the central regions of Côte d'Ivoire. The objectives and proposed interventions of this project are aligned with the adaptation to climate change components of the country's NDCs. This project aims to ensure food security and climate change adaptation by improving access to climate information systems, implementing climate risk management systems, and promoting sustainable soil management techniques. The project will also help to build the capacity of rural farming communities for climate resilience by targeting youth and women through job creation while promoting appropriate climate-resilient technologies for the targeted value chains which include rice, cassava, and yam.

- **Suggestions from the participants:**

Participants suggested aggregating their financing needs via virtual platforms or cooperatives of small-scale farmers or SMEs to better tap into funding opportunities. The workshop ended with the expectation from the participants that the project will provide new solutions to facilitate access to finance for SMEs. They also requested capacity building in CSA practices with the expectation of increasing their productivity and business profitability.

Field visit and consultation with local communities in Bocanda, 23 September 2022

On September 23, 2022, the third stakeholder consultation was held in Bocanda. The workshop took place at the premises of the city's radio station. It was attended by representatives from the prefectural authorities, the mayor and his deputies, as well as various regional technical directors from public institutions, local communities, and representatives of ongoing projects and programs in the locality.

Introductory remarks

The workshop began with a briefing note by the project manager from GGGI, [REDACTED], who set the context and background of the project, the importance of having an interactive session, and the major impact of the project on local development.

The following speaker was the Mayor of the Commune who discussed the efforts made to improve the standing of the city, with new opportunities for all the citizens, and stressed the importance of community support for the project.

The NDA, [REDACTED], also highlighted the tremendous work done by the Mayor on behalf of the municipality, as well as the numerous development projects being carried out. He also mentioned the projects underway to support the city of Bocanda's green development. To that effect, he announced that Bocanda will be among the host cities of the national Green City initiative.

Finally, the last speech was delivered by the representative of the head of the region, who spoke about the importance of the project and its aim to improve the living conditions of the local populations. He thus invited the residents to support the implementation of the project's activities for their own benefit.

Project presentation

The project was presented by [REDACTED] from CGIAR/AfricaRice. Following the presentation, other stakeholders, namely women, youth, and local authorities, were given the opportunity to share their views and provide recommendations.

Participant suggestions

After the project presentation, the floor was given to the audience to collect their opinions and first impressions on the project. Local authorities and community members expressed enthusiasm, and hope that this project will significantly improve their living conditions and provide them with new economic opportunities. Table 9 below shows the various comments raised by women, young people, and the decentralized public administration staff attending the workshop.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CATEGORIES OF ACTORS	RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop shallows for irrigated rice• Add yam (Kponan variety) as a staple food to the diets of local and Ivorian populations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce gumbo varieties, eggplant, and pepper as everyday foods for the populations ● Implement learning activities to fight bushfires ● Insert related activities concerning livestock, pork, chicken, fish-farming, and production ● Insert wood energy species for bio coal production
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include heads of household in the project for better land disposal in communities as land ownership is linked to families. ● Train women in marketing, and preservation techniques for their products ● Support the organization of youth around the project for job creation
Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the professionalization of small producers ● Create communal green spaces ● Strengthen interdepartmental collaboration ● Link the CFS project to the Integrated Program for Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin (PIDACC)/ PIF ● Ensure ANADER should be a key partner

Stakeholder consultation meetings, Abidjan 29 May – 02 June 2023

Subsequent stakeholder consultation meetings were held in Abidjan from 29 May to 02 June 2023 with representatives from the NDA/MINEDDTE CGIAR, and GGGI. The following key outcomes were achieved:

- **Joint review of project components:** MINEDDTE suggested that the "integrated" nature of the project should be clearly highlighted with a view to sustainable land management and climate-resilient agrifood systems. The integration of the forestry/agroforestry component was particularly important to contribute to the expected outcomes of the NDC, etc. Various reformulations of the components were made as a result of the joint review.
- **Project implementation arrangements and governance structure:** Stakeholders discussed the project implementation arrangements and governance structure proposed by CGIAR. Various suggestions were made by the national partners to amplify country ownership and the role of national institutions in the project. These were taken into account in the drafting of the CN for further reviews and consultations.

Stakeholder Engagement with Government ministries, FIRCA, and local communities – June 2024

A mission was conducted by CGIAR from 9-14 June 2024. During this mission, meetings were held in Abidjan with key Government ministries and implementation partners and in Bocanda with local communities, administrators, and potential beneficiaries of the project.

Objectives of the mission

The primary objective of the meeting was to engage with national stakeholders, including MINETE (formerly known as MINEDDTE), MINADERPV, FIRCA, GGGI, and CGIAR colleagues, to discuss the concept note structure and implementation framework.

This mission was organized with two specific objectives:

- Present the revised concept note: Share the content of the concept note with beneficiaries to gather their feedback and ensure alignment with their needs.
- National stakeholder consultation: Take part in a consultation with national stakeholders to present the project content and incorporate their comments and suggestions.

Meeting with national parties 10 June 2024

Meetings were held with the Cabinet of MINEDDTE, MINADERPV, and FIRCA on 10 June 2024. Discussions focused on the project implementation structure with CGIAR System Organization as Accredited Entity, and a CGIAR Center and FIRCA proposed as Executing Entities.

Stakeholder recommendations:

Extend the project area to the Gbêkê region, which shares similar biophysical characteristics and development issues with the N'Zi region.

Consultation with potential beneficiaries and feedback 11 June 2024

The LARACI project was presented to beneficiaries in Bocanda on 11 June 2024. Representatives from farmers' groups, women's and youth organizations, NGOs, ANADER, and local authorities attended.

The presentation included an overview of challenges addressed by the project, value chains of focus. It also explained the key components included in the concept note including improved access to climate information, enhanced capacity of extension services, financial services, agroforestry, clean energy, CSA technologies and practices for prioritized value chains and gender and social inclusion.

Feedback from potential beneficiaries:

Positive feedback indicated alignment with major challenges faced by beneficiaries. Feedback included the following comments, remarks, and recommendations:

- **Reported yam-related challenges:** Specific climate-related challenges for yam cultivation included erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, soil degradation, increased pests and diseases, and shifts in growing seasons.

- **Erratic rainfall:** Inconsistent rainfall often leads to droughts or flooding, both of which negatively impact yam growth. Drought conditions often stunt yam development, while excessive rainfall can cause waterlogging and root rot.
 - **Rising temperatures:** Increasing temperatures stress yam plants, reduce yields, and affect the tuber quality. Heat stress also exacerbates the incidence of pests and diseases.
 - **Soil degradation:** Climate change and illegal gold mining contribute to soil erosion and degradation, reducing soil fertility and affecting yam productivity. Heavy rains wash away topsoil, while prolonged dry spells lead to soil compaction.
 - **Increased incidence of pests and diseases:** Warmer and more humid conditions create favorable environments for pests and diseases that affect yams.
 - **Shifts in growing seasons:** Altered climatic conditions disrupt traditional growing seasons, making it difficult for farmers to predict optimal planting and harvesting times. Farmers previously planted yam in February to have good yields, but planting in February in recent years has resulted in poor yields and complete crop failure at times.
- **Reported rice-related challenges:**
- **Erratic rainfall and water control issues:** Irregular rainfall patterns cause both droughts and flooding. Poor water management in inland valleys amplifies these effects, limiting productivity and making rice cultivation highly risky.
 - **Water scarcity and irrigation constraints:** Changes in precipitation reduce water availability, making adequate irrigation difficult. Farmers highlighted that the vast lowland potential in Bocanda could boost rice production if supported by proper water management and irrigation infrastructure.
 - **Rising temperatures:** Increasing heat stresses rice plants, shortens growing cycles, and reduces yields. Higher temperatures also intensify pest and disease pressures in rice fields.
 - **Soil degradation and declining fertility:** Heavy rains wash away fertile topsoil, while prolonged dry spells lead to compaction. Limited use of soil amendments has further reduced soil fertility, and farmers stressed the need for organic inputs to restore productivity.
 - **Pest and disease pressures:** Warmer and more humid conditions favor outbreaks of pests and diseases, increasing production risks and reducing yields.
 - **Shifts in growing seasons:** Climate variability disrupts planting and harvesting calendars, making it harder for farmers to plan and increasing the risk of crop failure.
 - **Limited diversification and resilience:** Poor water control prevents farmers from intensifying rice production or diversifying with legumes and vegetables, which could otherwise strengthen resilience and increase incomes.

- **Reported cassava-related challenges:**
 - **Erratic rainfall patterns:** Inconsistent and unpredictable rainfall leads to periods of drought and excessive moisture, both adversely affecting cassava growth.
 - **Rising temperatures:** Higher temperatures stress cassava plants, leading to reduced yields and affecting the quality of the tubers. Heat stress also increases the vulnerability of cassava to pests and diseases.
 - **Soil degradation:** Climate change exacerbates soil erosion and degradation, reducing soil fertility and negatively impacting cassava productivity. Heavy rains also wash away topsoil, while prolonged dry periods lead to soil compaction and poor root development.
 - **Pests and diseases:** Warmer and more humid conditions create favorable environments for pests and diseases that affect cassava.
 - **Shifts in growing seasons:** Altered climatic conditions disrupt traditional growing seasons, making it difficult for farmers to predict optimal planting and harvesting times, which affect productivity and crop quality. Previous sowing periods of cassava were March – April, but recently sowing cassava during this period resulted in poor root yield.

- **Additional challenges:** Irrespective of the value chains, farmers highlighted several other major issues affecting crop cultivation and limiting productivity in the region. These include gold mining, crop destruction by livestock leading to conflicts between farmers and herders, a lack of mechanization, poor quality seeds, limited access to finance and markets, labor scarcity, lack of access to climate information, insufficient technical capacity, inadequate post-harvest facilities (such as storage, milling, and parboiling), and land tenure issues.
- **Youth and NGO feedback:** They emphasized the need for capacity building, mechanization support, access to finance, and service provision models. Emphasis was placed on strengthening youth capacity, enhancing climate information services, and implementing climate-smart agriculture (CSA) innovations.
- **Women's group feedback:** They highlighted the need for quality seeds, diversification, access to finance, and mechanization to reduce manual labor.
- **Climate-smart innovations suggested:** Discussions with local communities revealed the need to support the adoption of the following climate-smart innovations:
 - Drought-resistant, early maturing, and submergence tolerant varieties.
 - Water management techniques: Collecting and storing rainwater for use during dry periods, land and water development in inland valleys, and water-saving technologies in the case of rice.
 - Soil conservation and fertility management: Mulching, cover cropping, biochar, composting, and location specific fertilizer recommendations.

- Agroforestry: Integrating trees and shrubs into yam, cassava, or rice farming systems.
- Integrated pest management: Cultural practices such as crop rotation, pest-resistant varieties, and using biopesticides
- Climate information services: Weather forecasting and early warning systems to provide farmers with accurate and timely weather forecasts and alerts, apps and digital platforms to guide farmers on planting dates, drought spells, pest outbreaks, and irrigation scheduling.
- Post-harvest technologies: Improved storage facilities using climate-controlled storage to reduce post-harvest losses and introduction of parboiling and processing to add value and extend shelf life.
- Capacity building and farmer education: Training programs to educate farmers on CSA practices and technologies through workshops and field schools.
- Farmer field schools: Hands-on learning experiences to demonstrate and adopt CSA technologies.

National stakeholder consultation workshop 12 June 2024

Presentation of project objectives, theory of change, components, activities, and implementation framework.

Conclusion:

Further discussions will be needed to refine and agree on the implementation framework, particularly regarding the roles of FIRCA and CGIAR. The national counterparts (MINEDDTE, MINADERPV, and FIRCA) expressed their commitment to reviewing the concept note and providing feedback the week of June 17-21.

NDA visit to AfricaRice campus – Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire 16 August 2024

The NDA visited AfricaRice headquarters on 16 August 2024. The visit focused on climate-related research and innovations in rice-based systems and activities included a presentation, laboratory visits, and field demonstrations.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Climate change impacts on rice production.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from rice-based systems.
- Climate-smart rice technologies:
 - Varieties: Drought tolerant (ARICA 3, KAFACI 1, WITA 9), cold tolerant (FOFIFA 194, FOFIFA 195, FOFIFA 196), submergence tolerant (NERICA-L 19-Sub1, WITA 4-Sub1), salinity tolerant (ARICA 11, ISRIZ-09-B1-45, ISRIZ-10, ISRIZ-11), anaerobic germination (TOG lines), early morning flowering (heat avoidance).
 - Agronomic practices: System of Rice Intensification (SRI), alternate wetting and drying (AWD), mid-season drainage, Smart-Valleys, RiceAdvice app, solar irrigation, integrated rice–fish systems, no-tillage and straw mulching, climate information services.
 - Post-harvest practices: Mini-GEM parboiling, husk stove, hermetic storage bags and cocoons.
 - GHG mitigation innovations: AWD, mid-season drainage, biochar, no-tillage + straw mulching.
 - Policy support and engagement activities by AfricaRice.

Laboratory visits

- Soil & Plant Analyses laboratory
- Greenhouse Gas Analyses laboratory
- Molecular Biology laboratory
- Plant Pathology laboratory
- Grain Quality laboratory

Field visits

- Integrated rice–fish system
- Integration of legumes and vegetables into rice-based systems
- Biochar field trials
- Demonstrations of drought- and submergence-tolerant rice varieties

NDA Feedback

The NDA expressed strong satisfaction with the work that AfricaRice demonstrated. The NDA also stressed appreciation for the benefits of CSA innovations in:

- Improving productivity and farmers' income
- Strengthening adaptation to climate change
- Enhancing nutrition
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from rice-based systems

The NDA expressed commitment to facilitate the process of finalizing the proposal for scaling CSA innovations, and improving climate resilience, food and nutrition security, and prosperity of smallholder farmers.

High-level stakeholder engagement December 2024 – January 2025

A series of meetings were held during the course of December 2024 through submission of the CN (v.4) in February 2025 which was later endorsed by GCF.

Meeting FIRCA-MINEDDTE-CGIAR 6 December 2024

The objective of the meeting held on Friday, 6 December 2024, was to revise and validate the governance scheme for effective coordination and a balanced sharing of responsibilities between stakeholders. It also aimed to define the next technical and organizational steps needed to finalize the LARACI project before its submission to the GCF, while ensuring its alignment with the national sustainable development priorities of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Below are the main points discussed.

- **Clarification on governance:** CGIAR, as the Accredited Entity (AE) for the implementation of the project, will ensure overall coordination, including the supervision of management of the financial resources allocated by the GCF.
- **Administrative supervision:** The project will be placed under the administrative supervision of the MINEDDTE, guaranteeing strategic alignment with national policies.
- **Project Steering Committee (PSC):** A PSC will be established and chaired by MINEDDTE. The PSC will include the MINADERPV, the Ministry of Forestry, other key ministries, CGIAR, representatives of FIRCA, local authorities, and other partners. This committee will play a key role in validating strategic direction and activity oversight.
- **Execution roles:** FIRCA, as an Executing Entity (EE), will coordinate two of the four components³ of the project on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the CGIAR. These two components will be:
 - **Component 1:** Climate-related risk management.
 - **Component 3:** Adoption of climate-smart food technologies and systems.
- The CGIAR Center acting as EE will coordinate the other two components. That is:
 - **Component 2:** Reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhancement of carbon sequestration.
 - **Component 4:** Promotion of financial tools to reduce risk.

Responsibility for implementation of specific activities of each component will be distributed among the partners according to their comparative advantages. These decisions will be taken by consensus between the partners. In the event of disagreement, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will arbitrate and make adjustments during the annual planning or mid-term reviews.

³ Corresponding to 3 out of 5 outputs in the current FP draft: Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 3.1.

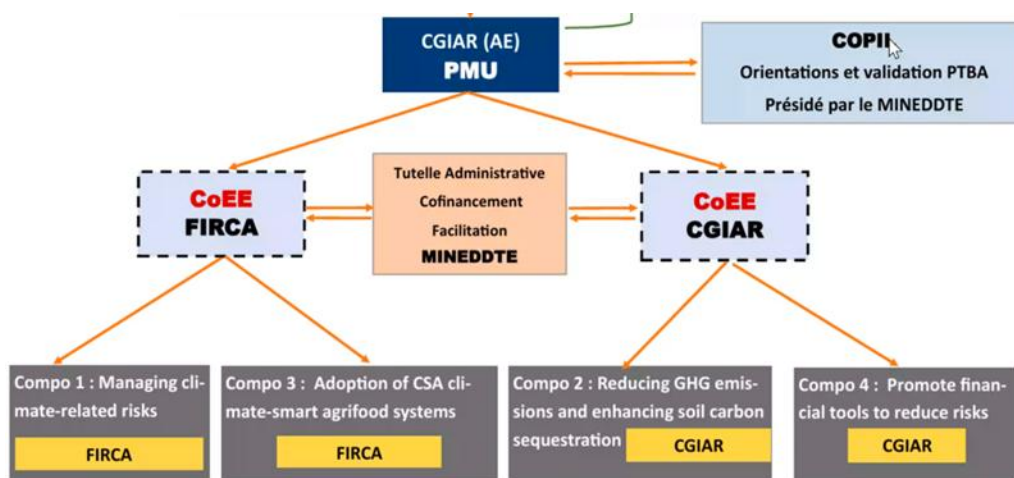


FIGURE 5: GOVERNANCE MODEL OF THE LARACI PROJECT

- **Next steps:** a technical session is essential to:
 - Finalize the list of activities.
 - Finalize budget envelopes in detail.
 - Assign specific activities to implementing structures according to their respective competencies.
- **Timeline:**
 - The technical meeting will be convened in December 2024 by MINEDDTE, once these meeting minutes have been validated.
 - First week of January 2025: final validation of the submission document.
 - Mid-January 2025: official submission of the project for presentation to the GCF Board in March 2025.
- **Commitment to deadlines:**
 - It is imperative to meet deadlines to submit the project in a timely manner and maximize funding opportunities. Collaboration between partners and a clear governance structure are essential factors to ensure the success of the project. Figure 5 above outlines the governance model approved by the participants at the meeting.

GCF CN co-design meeting – January 2025

Introduction

IITA's Director General and CGIAR Regional Champion for Africa welcomed the participants and commended the strong support from FIRCA's Executive Director and AfricaRice's Director General, which significantly advanced the project and clarified the roles of all stakeholders. He provided a brief background on the discussions held in November and December 2024, confirming an agreement on overall governance. IITA's Director General stressed that great progress has been made on this and now is the time to move forward with a renewed commitment. Below is a recap of those agreements (referencing the minutes from 6 December 2024, meetings which were circulated and approved by members):

- CGIAR is the Accredited Entity (AE) in charge of overall coordination, financial resources, and project management.
- The project will be overseen by a Steering Committee, chaired by the MINEDDTE (NDA), Côte d'Ivoire, and including CGIAR and relevant stakeholders and partners.
- FIRCA and a CGIAR Center will serve as Executing Entities.
- Responsibilities for the different components of the project will be divided between FIRCA and CGIAR, aligning with their comparative advantages.
- Within each component, specific activities may be shared or reassigned by mutual agreement and Project Steering Committee guidance, to be defined in the Funding Proposal.

Discussion Points

- **Technical Team:** The meeting acknowledged the importance of maintaining coherence with the theory of change (components and outputs) as presented in the approved concept note, although technical refinements may occur.
- **Final decisions** on component structure (concept note stage) and activity distribution (funding proposal stage) will be made by the technical team in alignment with GCF requirements.
- **Timeline and process for submission:**
 - Concept Note (version 3) was submitted in June 2024 and was ready for GCF endorsement pending agreement on the implementation arrangements.
 - An updated Concept Note (version 4) should be prepared to include the agreed implementation arrangements and distribution of roles for the different EEs by components/outputs. The CN should be resubmitted to GCF in February 2025.
 - Once GCF endorses the Concept Note, a Funding Proposal will be developed, a process requiring several months of technical work.
 - GCF generally requires a six-month gap between submitting a funding proposal and its decision at the Board meeting, which is scheduled three times a year: February, July, and October.
 - The earliest potential approval window is October 2025, contingent on timely submission of the Concept Note and GCF confirmation of timeline and pipeline prioritization.
- **Sense of urgency and beneficiary needs**
 - Participants stressed the urgent need to address climate challenges affecting farmers and stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire.
 - A range of the proposed technologies are proven to be very effective in the target region, and implementation can quickly and significantly benefit the communities involved.
 - The project development process has already been lengthy, with the CN phase ongoing for more than two years; partners agreed to move swiftly to secure GCF

approval and begin implementation for the benefit of the population. It is important to move forward and not miss this window for 2025 Board review.

▪ **Decisions and action items**

• **Technical team formation/updates:**

- **FIRCA:** Nominate focal point(s).
- **IITA:** Update its focal point list.

• **Concept Note revision (version 4) and completion:**

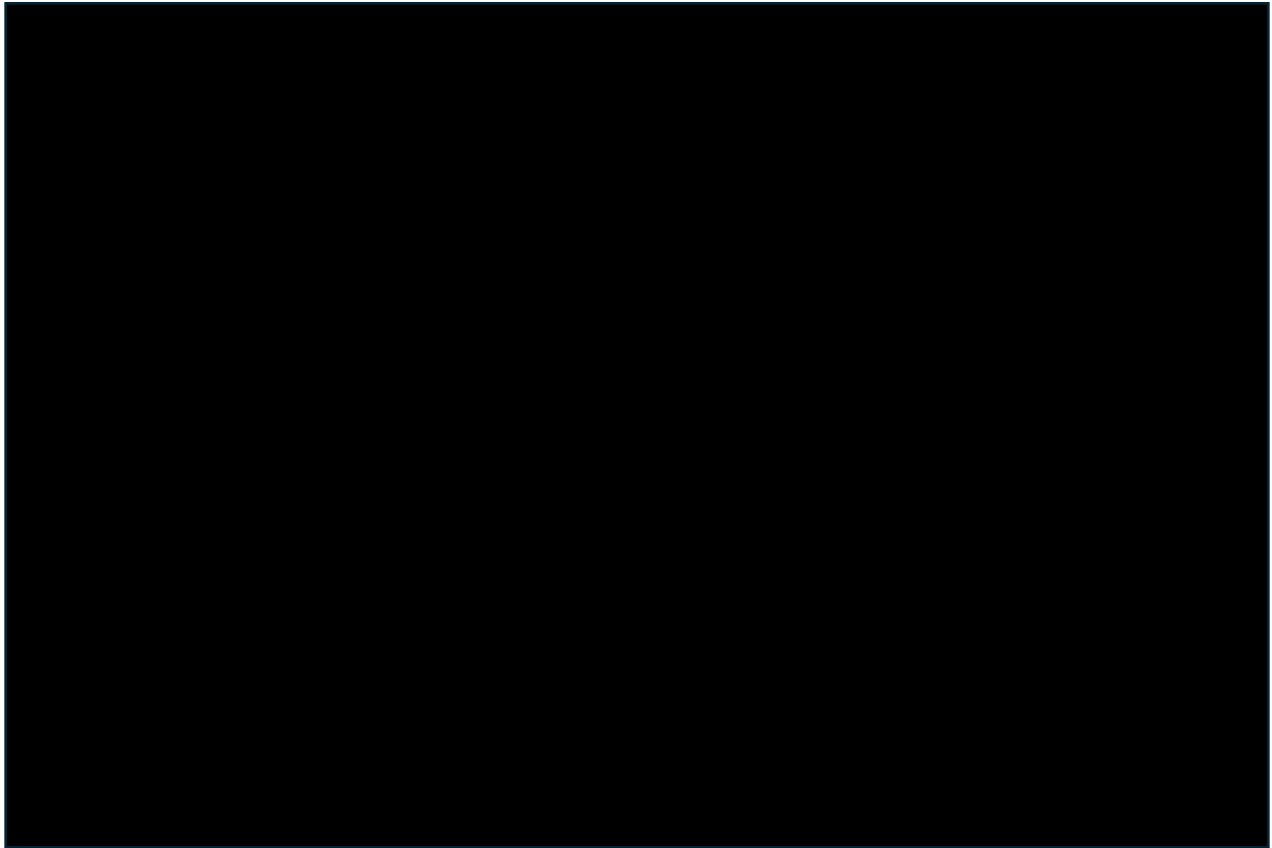
- CGIAR System Organization (AE) will reach out to GCF to share an update on progress and confirm feasible timelines.
- The technical team will convene immediately to finalize the Concept Note for completion by February 20, 2025.
- [REDACTED] (CGIAR System Organization) will facilitate coordination among technical teams and monitor progress toward CN development.
- NDA to review and endorse the revised CN before resubmission to GCF.

• **Funding Proposal development**

- Launch drafting once the Concept Note receives GCF endorsement.
- Target approval: GCF Board meeting in October 2025.

Stakeholder visit to IITA campus- Ibadan, Nigeria, 16-18 June 2025

<https://www.iita.org/news-item/cote-divoires-pdc2v-delegates-visit-iita-for-partnerships-in-agricultural-transformation/>



A high-level delegation from Côte d'Ivoire conducted an immersion visit at the IITA headquarters in Ibadan from 16 to 18 June 2024. The visit was part of the 'Programme de Développement des Chaînes de Valeur' (PDC2V), a national initiative aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, value chain development, and rural livelihoods.

The delegation comprised representatives from key Ivorian institutions, including MINADERPV, the National Agronomic Research Centre (CNRA), FIRCA, the National Rural Development Support Agency (ANADER), and the World Bank Côte d'Ivoire Office.

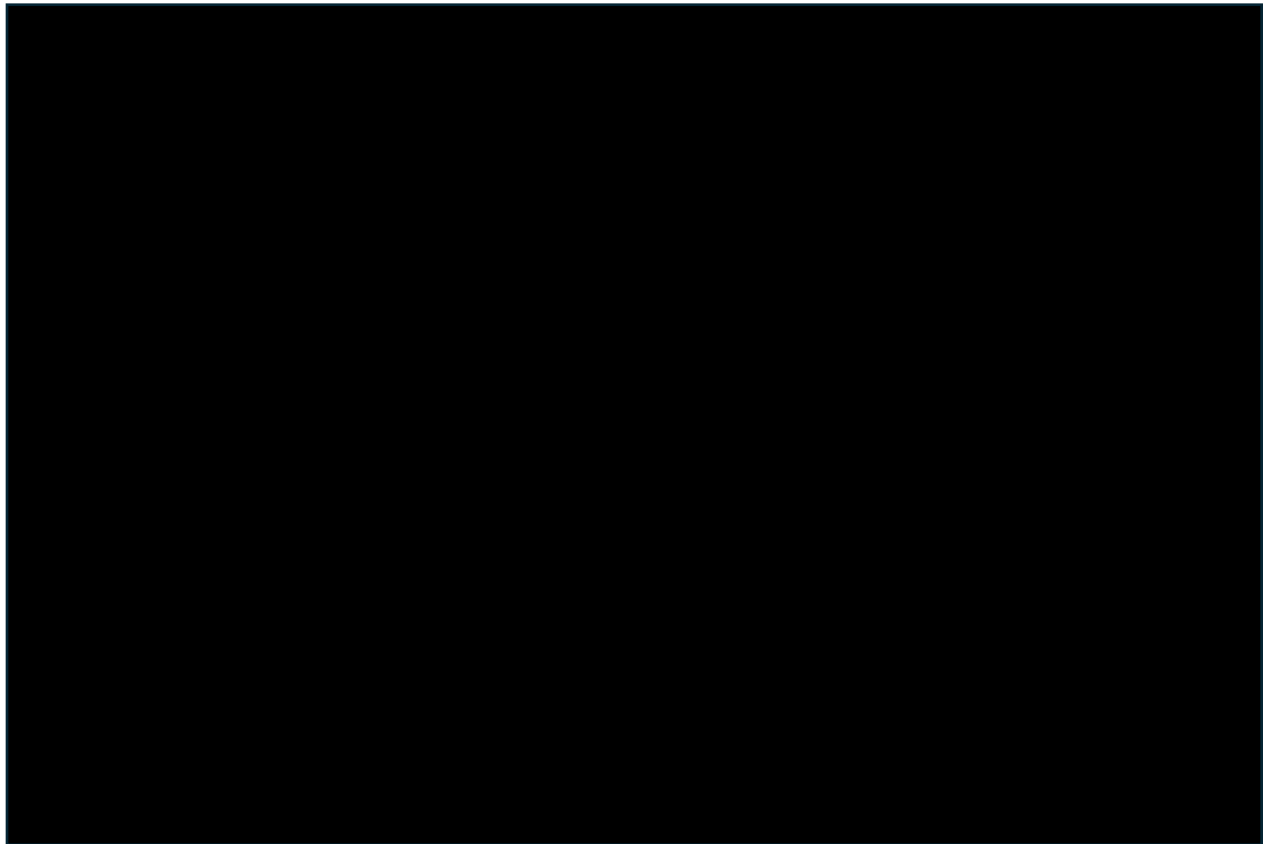
The visit provided an opportunity for CGIAR/IITA to deepen its collaboration with FIRCA and national stakeholders from Côte d'Ivoire and discuss the LARACI project. It was also an opportunity for showcase and exchange on some of the technical capabilities of IITA in CSA to be scaled in Côte d'Ivoire through the LARACI project.

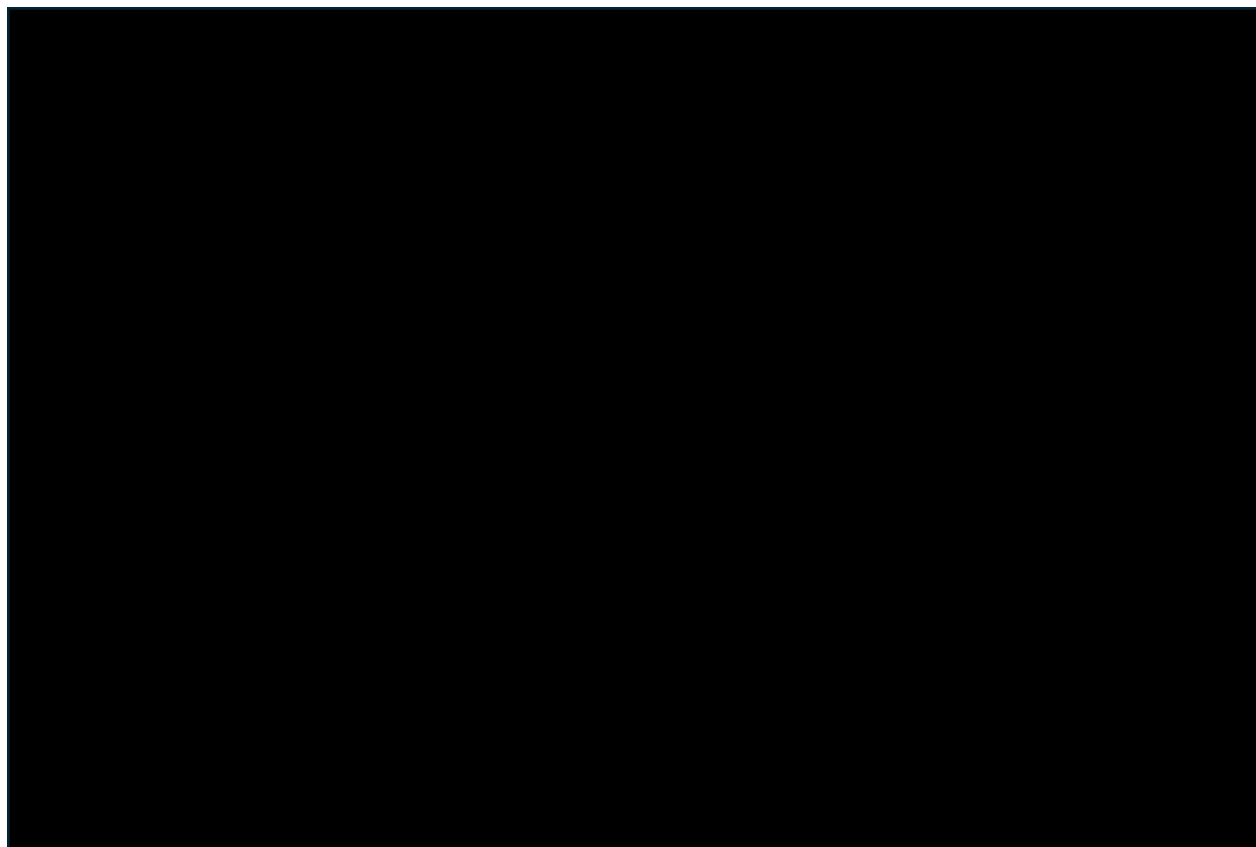
Funding Proposal co-design and validation

The CN (v.4) was endorsed by GCF in March 2025. After this, the key counterparts including CGIAR System Organization as AE, MINEDDTE as NDA, FIRCA and AfricaRice as EEs, and the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT and IITA as service providers launched a co-design process to develop the Funding Proposal (FP).

At the end of the FP co-design process, FIRCA, MINETE (formerly MINEDDTE)/NDA, and CGIAR convened a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting at FIRCA's offices in Abidjan on 5 August 2025. This meeting served to validate the refined project design, and overarching principles for engagement approaches to ensure inclusiveness and cultural relevance. Please see the following link for more details:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/lefirca_lefirca-mineddte-cgiar-activity-7358892388825661440-mWa6?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=member_desktop_web&rcm=ACoAAJXmrwBgYphq-37tvvTF1WHHC9MuEnvai8





Welcoming remarks

██████████, Executive Director of FIRCA, opened the meeting with his welcoming words, emphasizing the urgency of the project and the importance of the project for FIRCA. ██████████, Director General of AfricaRice, shared his gratitude to FIRCA for hosting this meeting and excitement to be entering into this important partnership between FIRCA and CGIAR.

Context and objective of meeting

██████████, CGIAR Regional Champion for Africa and Director General of IITA, presented the objectives of the meeting – to agree on the overarching principles for partnership engagement, validate the Funding Proposal and confirm its alignment to country priorities to address the most pressing climate change challenges facing the agrifood sector of Côte d’Ivoire, validate the implementation arrangements and project governance structure, and agree on the milestones and next steps.

Next steps until FP submission

██████████, CGIAR System Organization, presented the process thus far with a series of stakeholder consultations undertaken since 2022 informing project design. Since GCF CN endorsement, the partners present in the meeting have co-designed the FP. A draft of the funding proposal package was shared with all partners in July 2025 for review and completion. The last pending elements to complete the funding proposal aiming for submission at the end of August 2025 were presented, as well as responsibilities for the different deliverables.

Strategic comments from management

The executives and director generals of AfricaRice, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, AfricaRice, IITA, FIRCA and NDA/MINEDDTE confirmed their agreement with the FP and the urgency and commitment to complete the funding proposal in line with the timeline to allow beneficiaries to benefit from the project's impact with urgency.

Next steps after submission

[REDACTED], CGIAR System Organization, presented the next steps after project submission, aiming for the FP to be prioritized for GCF board approval in March 2026.

Decision and validation

Through a roundtable, each of the partners confirmed agreement with the following decisions:

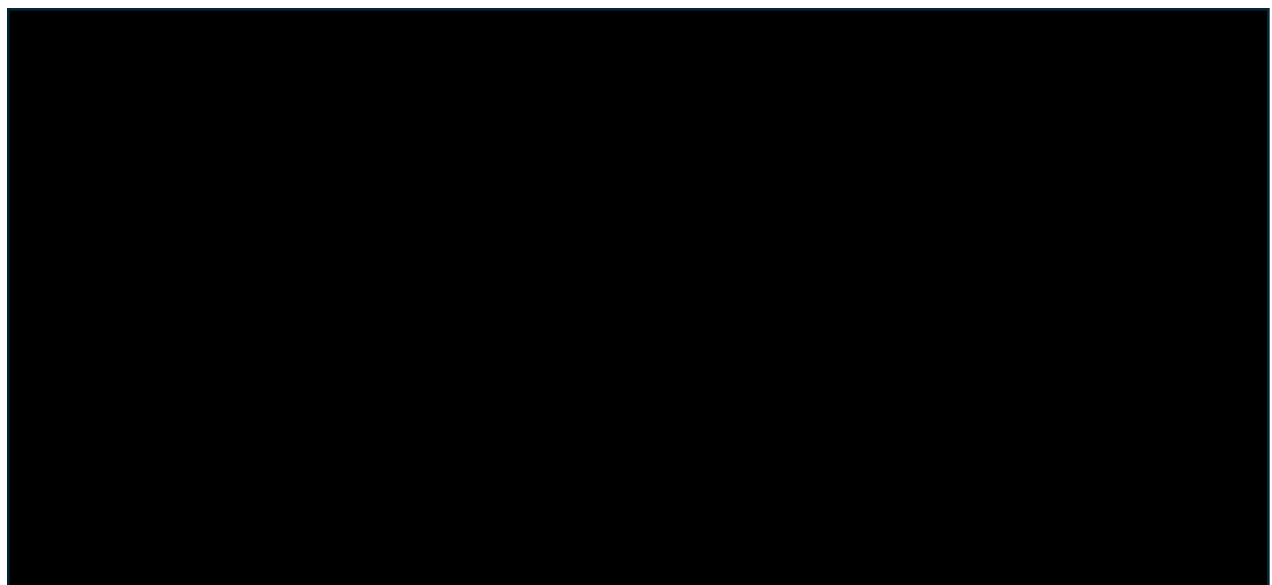
- **Decision 1:** Confirmation of the partnership and engagement principles: respect, transparency, ownership, joint validation, systematic sharing of documents.
- **Decision 2:** Approve the roadmap and milestones toward FP submission and GCF board approval.
- **Decision 3:** Endorse the FP and budget envelopes.

Signature of joint commitment document

The partner commitment document outlining agreement with the three decision points above was signed by all parties: MINETE (formerly known as MINEDDTE ([REDACTED])), FIRCA ([REDACTED]), CGIAR System Organization ([REDACTED] representing [REDACTED]), AfricaRice ([REDACTED]), Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT ([REDACTED] representing [REDACTED]), and IITA ([REDACTED]).

Outcome

As a result of this final consultation, the no-objection letter for the GCF Funding Proposal was signed by the NDA ([REDACTED]).



Conclusion

As part of the LARACI project preparation process, several stakeholder consultations were successfully conducted, engaging key and diverse actors including government representatives, MINETE (formerly known as MINEDDTE) and MINADERPV, FIRCA, potential implementation agencies, development partners, local communities, producers-cooperatives and SMEs, local communities, as well as project beneficiaries.

These consultations provided valuable insights that significantly contributed to refining and strengthening the project design. Each consultation offered a unique perspective to ensure alignment with country requirements and helped ensure that the project supports national development priorities and addresses the most urgent climate change challenges faced by the population. Stakeholders provided strategic advice on best practices, funding opportunities, and coordination mechanisms, enhancing the project's scalability and sustainability.

The feedback collected during these sessions was instrumental in refining intervention strategies, identifying potential risks, and ensuring that the project approach is inclusive, practical, and impactful.

Ultimately, these stakeholder consultations and high-level engagement have strengthened country ownership, fostered early engagement, and laid the foundation for effective implementation and long-term success of the LARACI project.

Appendix 2: Sample complaint form for non-SEA/SH

LARACI GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM
Section 1: Complaint
1. What harm or risk do you believe LARACI caused or is likely to cause or expose you or your community to? Please describe in as much detail as possible.
2. What location is concerned with your submission? (Please include country/county name)
3. Do you live in or near the project area?
4. Have you previously reported your concerns to LARACI management? If yes, please provide the details about those communications and explain why you are not satisfied with the action in response.
5. If known, please list the national and international laws, regulations, and policies that you believe have been violated by LARACI.
6. Are you concerned about any form of retaliation or threats for filing this complaint to the LARACI project? If so, please explain. There is an option to keep your contact information confidential (see section 8)
Section 2: Contact information
7. (a) Are you filing an individual submission or on behalf of another person or a community? Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> on behalf of another person or a community: <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) If on behalf of someone or community, why are you submitting on their behalf?

8. Would you like your name and contact details to be kept confidential? *(LARACI will not disclose your identity to anyone without your prior consent)* Yes ☐ No ☐

9. Submitter's Name & contact information:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Kindly indicate your preferred Method of Contact:

10. I, the undersigned, request the LARACI Independent Steering Committee to investigate the issues described above.

11. Signature/Thumbprint

Name:

Date

NOTES:

- Please attach supporting documents, if available.

Section 3: Office Use Only

Grievance ID Number

Recorded by:

Date

Place/Method grievance was received

Appendix 3: GBV /SEA-SH intake form

1- Administrative Information		
Case ID No:	Survivor code:	
Date of interview:	Date of incident	
<p>Reported by the survivor or by survivor's escort and survivor is present at reporting.</p> <p>Reported by someone other than the survivor and survivor is not present at reporting</p>		
2- Survivor's Details		
Date of Birth (approximate if necessary)	Sex Female Male	Location
Current civil/marital status Single Divorced/Separated Married/Cohabiting Widowed		
Is the survivor a person with disability? Yes, if yes specify the type of disability. No		
Is the survivor a child (i.e. less than 14 years)? Yes No		
3 –Details of the Incident		
Account of the incident/description of the incident (Summarize the details of the incident in client's own words)		
Indicative type of incident, as specified by complainant. Defilement Rape Sexual Assault Psychological/Emotional Abuse		
Were project benefits, goods, money and/or services exchanged in relation to this incident? Yes No		

Has the survivor reported this incident anywhere else? If yes, select the type of service provider and write the name of the provider where the client reported; select all that apply

Yes No

Health/Medical Services _____

Psychosocial/Counselling Services _____

Police/Other Security Actor _____

Legal Assistance Service _____

Appendix 4: Sample complaint acknowledgement letter (non-SEA/SH)

[Your contact information here]

[Date]

[Complainant's name or the name of the organization submitting the complaint if the complainant wishes to remain anonymous]

[Complainant's address or "No physical address"]

Submitted [in person or by mail/e-mail/telephone]

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. [family name of complainant]:

Re: Complaint regarding [describe briefly]

The LARACI project acknowledges that we received your complaint dated [date]. The project takes stakeholder concerns seriously, and we thank you for submitting your complaint. We will make every effort to ensure that your complaint is considered quickly and fairly.

The project has a grievance mechanism process that we follow to consider and resolve complaints. Attached is a description of the process, so you can learn more about it. In accordance with our grievance mechanism procedures, we will determine whether your complaint is eligible for our grievance resolution process and consider the next steps as relevant. We will contact you during this period should we need more information.

You can expect to hear from us within [xx] business days from the date of this letter.

Please refer to the attached grievance mechanism procedures for more information on what you can expect as we address your complaint, including timeframes, responsibilities, and your rights throughout the process.

Sincerely,

[Name of Safeguard Focal
Person] [Research Institution]

Enclosure: (The relevant procedures for submitting grievances)

Appendix 5: Complaint acknowledgement letter for SEA/SH

[Your contact information here]

[Date]

Submitted [in person or by mail/e-mail/telephone]

Re: Complaint regarding [describe briefly]

The LARACI project acknowledges that we received your complaint dated [date]. The project takes stakeholders' concerns seriously, and we thank you for submitting your complaint. We will make every effort to ensure that your complaint is considered quickly and fairly.

The information provided to us will be handled confidentially, it will only be revealed to immediate staff involved in the handling of your case. Care will be taken to ensure that unauthorized individuals do not overhear any discussion of your case, and access documents containing confidential information on your case.

Regarding the referrals made, you have every right to refuse or access the support or services recommended. Refusal to access them will not in any way affect your right to request or access that services at some time in the future. We also acknowledge your consent to (pursue/ not pursue) disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator. This will be taken into consideration as we review and pursue the case further.

The project has a grievance mechanism process that we follow to consider and resolve complaints. Attached is a description of the process, so you can learn more about it. In accordance with our grievance mechanism procedures, we will determine whether your complaint is eligible for our grievance resolution process and consider the next steps as relevant. We will contact you during this period should we need more information. Please refer to the attached grievance mechanism procedures for more information on what you can expect as we address your complaint, including timeframes, responsibilities, and your rights throughout the process.

You can expect to hear from us within [xx] business days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

[Name of Safeguard Focal Person] [Research Institution]

Appendix 6: Complainant satisfaction form

Grievance ID Number:	Date received:
Recorded by:	Place/Method grievance was received
Proposed action(s)	
The claimant has ACCEPTED/SATISFIED the proposed action? YES/NO	
Further action required? YES/NO	
Complainant acknowledgement	
<p>I, the undersigned, hereby confirm my satisfaction/acceptance of resolution actions implemented to address my complaint.</p> <p>Signature/Thumbprint</p> <p>Name: _____ Date _____</p>	

Appendix 7: Grievance log (for non-SEA/SH complaints)

Case no.	Date Claim Received	Name of Person Receiving Complaint	Where/ how the complaint was received	Name & contact details of complainant (if known)	Type of Claim Add content of the claim (include all grievances, suggestions, inquiries)	Was Receipt of Complaint Acknowledged to the Complainant? (Y/N – if yes, include date, method of communication & by whom)	Expected Decision Date	Decision Outcome (include names of participants and date of decision)	Was Decision communicated to complainant? Y/N If yes, state when, by whom and via what method of communication	Was the complainant satisfied with the decision? Y/N State the decision. If no, explain why and if known, will pursue	Any follow up action (and by whom, by what date)?

Appendix 8: Grievance log for SEA/SH cases

Case N°.	Date Claim Received	Name of Person Receiving Complaint	Where/how the complaint was received	Ref number of the complainant	Type of Incident	Was Receipt of Complaint Acknowledged to the Complainant? (Y/N – if yes, include date, method of communication & by whom)	Referral(s) provided	Did the survivor give consent to share their non-identifiable information?	Expected Decision Date	Decision Outcome (by GBV service providers and relevant services)	Was Decision communicated to complainant? Y/N If yes, state when, by whom and via what method of	Was the complainant satisfied with the decision? Y/N State the decision. If no, explain why and if	Any follow up action (and by whom, by what date)?

Appendix 9: GBV / SEA-SH service providers for LARACI project

Purpose of the Appendix

This appendix provides a non-exhaustive list of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and SEA/SH service providers available within Côte d'Ivoire to support survivors in LARACI project intervention areas. These service providers will support survivor referral under the project's survivor-centered SEA/SH grievance protocol, ensuring timely access to confidential medical, psychosocial, legal, and protection services. The list will be updated periodically by Executing Entities (FIRCA and AfricaRice) to reflect availability and capacity of providers.

National-Level GBV Service Providers

Institution	Type of Service	Geographic Coverage	Contact / Access
Ministry of Women, Family and Children (MFFE)	Coordination of GBV response, shelters, social support, referrals	National	National hotline: 1308
National Program for the Fight Against GBV (PNLVBG)	Case management, psychosocial support, referral coordination	National	Through MFFE regional offices
One-Stop GBV Centers (Centres d'Accueil Intégré)	Medical, legal, psychosocial services	Major cities nationwide	Referral through health or social services
UNFPA Côte d'Ivoire	Technical support, survivor services coordination, GBV referral pathways	National	Via regional UNFPA offices
UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire	Child protection services, support for minors	National	Through social protection network

Health Service Providers

Institution	Services Provided	Coverage
Public Hospitals and Regional Health Centers	Clinical care, forensic examination, emergency treatment, PEP	All project regions
University Hospital Centers (CHU Abidjan, Bouaké)	Specialized medical treatment, forensic documentation	National
District Health Facilities	Initial medical response and referral	Local coverage

Legal and Justice Support Providers

Institution	Services	Coverage
Ministry of Justice Legal Aid Services	Legal counseling, prosecution support	National
Bar Association Legal Aid Programs	Free legal assistance to survivors	Major cities
Specialized Police Units for Family Protection	Investigation and protection measures	National

Psychosocial Support and Protection Services

Institution	Services	Coverage
Social Action Regional Directorates	Counseling, survivor reintegration support	All regions
Community Social Workers	Community-level psychosocial support	Local
NGO Psychosocial Support Centers	Trauma counseling, survivor follow-up	Selected regions

Civil Society and NGO Service Providers

Organization	Services	Coverage
Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (AFJCI)	Legal support, GBV counseling	National
CARE International Côte d'Ivoire	GBV prevention and response	Selected regions
Save the Children	Child protection and survivor support	National
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Comprehensive GBV case management	Selected regions
Local Women's Associations	Community support and referral	Project areas

F. Emergency Hotlines

Service	Hotline
National GBV Hotline	1308
Police Emergency	111
Medical Emergency	185

G. Service Provider Responsibilities within LARACI

Service providers linked to the project will:

- Apply national GBV case management protocols.
- Ensure confidentiality and survivor consent.
- Provide services in a survivor-centered and non-discriminatory manner.

- Inform the project focal point when a case is resolved (without sharing personal data)

H. Updating Mechanism

Executing Entities will:

- Maintain updated regional referral directories.
- Establish Memoranda of Understanding where needed.
- Verify provider capacity annually.