



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE

with WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Accra, Ghana

29 September–2 October 2026





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Session 2.4.1. The West African Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture: Consultations with Government Representatives

Mr. Tolulope David Adebayo,

ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)

Accra, Ghana

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Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food (RFAF)



Purpose

The **Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food (RFAF)**, domiciled at EBID, is the regional financing mechanism established by the ECOWAS Commission to mobilize, manage and deploy financial resources for the implementation of the **ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)**.

The Fund addresses the persistent financing gap in the agricultural sector by leveraging resources from Member States, development partners and private investors to finance agricultural transformation, food security and climate resilience across the region.

Objectives



Operational Architecture of the RFAF



Operational Area	Strategic Focus	Typical Financing Instruments
Operational Area 1 – Improving the Agricultural Business Climate (IABC)	Supports the development and implementation of regional and national policies, regulatory frameworks, institutional reforms, digital agriculture systems, and strategic instruments that improve the enabling environment for agricultural investment and agribusiness development across ECOWAS.	• Concessional Loans, • Guarantees, • Equity Investments, • Performance-Based Grants
Operational Area 2 – Aggregation and Processing of Agricultural Products (APAP)	Promotes the aggregation of agricultural value chains, strengthens market linkages, improves access to finance and technology, and increases value addition through agro-processing, with particular emphasis on smallholders, women and youth.	
Operational Area 3 – Emergency Response (ER)	Supports the Regional Food Security Reserve through the Financial Food Reserve (RAF) and strengthens preparedness and response to food crises, transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic outbreaks across the region.	
Operational Area 4 – Climate Change Response (CCR)	Finances climate-smart agriculture, climate adaptation and resilience initiatives, including the West African Initiative for Climate-Smart Agriculture (WAICSA), while supporting other climate-related agricultural investments.	

WAICSA at a Glance

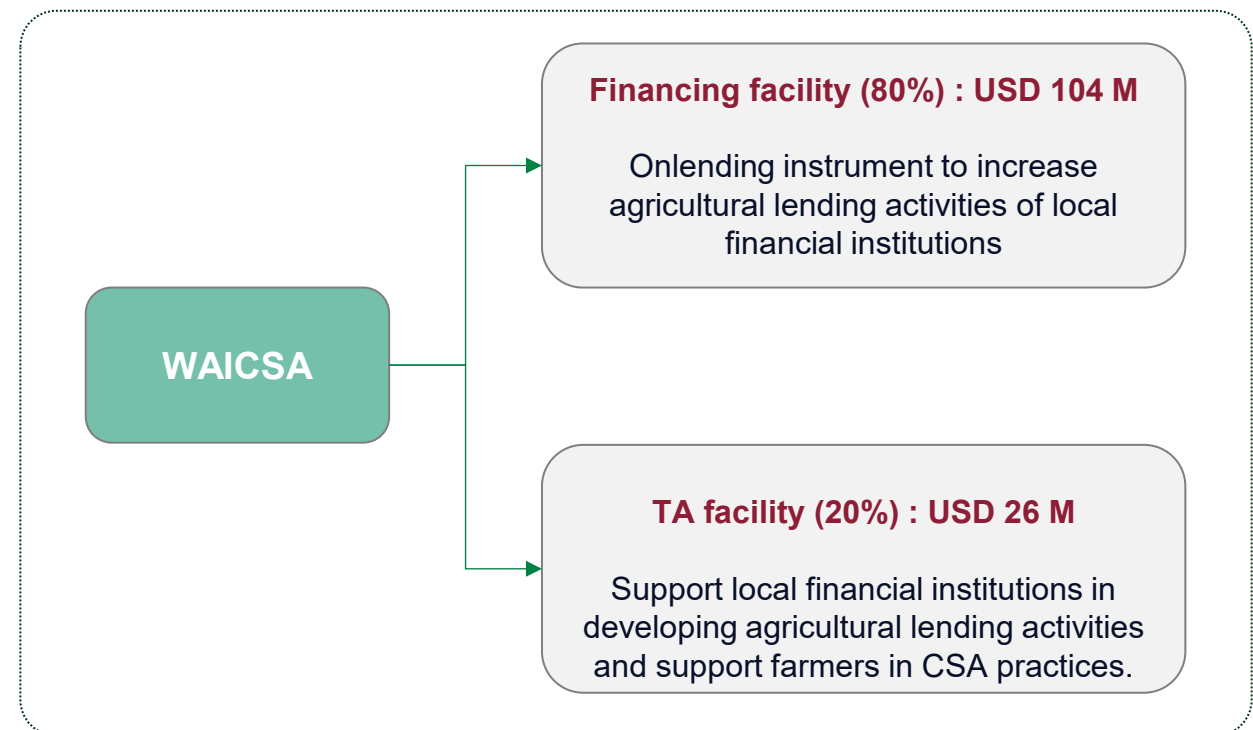


The **West African Initiative for Climate-Smart Agriculture** (WAICSA) has been designed as a regional, integrated response to these systemic risks, catalysing **Climate-Smart Agriculture** (CSA) financing in West Africa. With its **blended finance structure**, **robust financial model**, impact-driven strategy, and strong alignment with **global climate goals**.

Strategic Objectives

1. **Expand Access to Climate Finance:** Increase the availability and accessibility of climate adaptation finance for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses through blended finance, concessional loans, and risk-sharing mechanisms.
2. **Promote Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** Support the adoption of drought-resistant crops, regenerative agriculture, efficient irrigation systems, and agroforestry.
3. **Enhance Capacity & Technical Assistance:** Provide training, knowledge sharing, and technical support to farmers and agribusinesses on climate-smart agricultural practices.
4. **Leverage Public-Private Partnerships:** Catalyze investments from governments, development finance institutions (DFIs), and private investors to scale up climate adaptation projects.
5. **Measure & Report Impact:** Implement a robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework to track the facility's contributions to climate resilience, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.

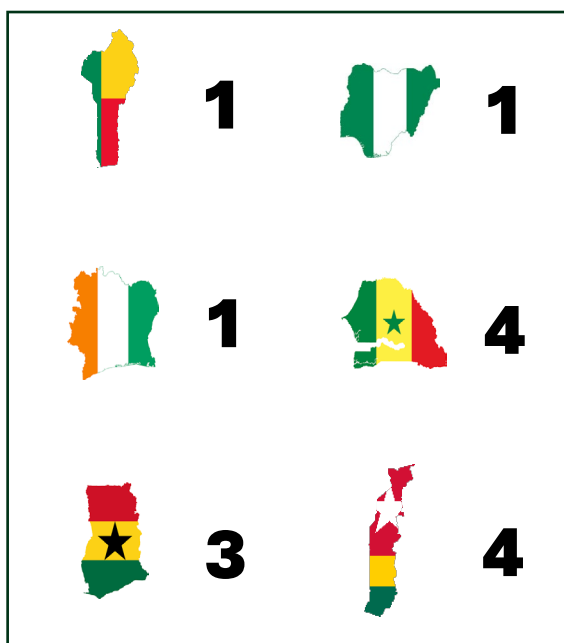
Capitalization Target : USD 130 Million



WAICSA Pilot Phase Status



14 financial institutions across the sub-region were selected from which five (5) institutions across three countries were selected for the pilot phase



Five selected PFIs for the Pilot



Pilot Selection Criteria

- Experience in agricultural finance with proven experience in financing primary agriculture.
- Operational capacity and portfolio quality. The PFI's loan origination and disbursement process, its management of non-performing loans (NPLs)
- Results orientation and repayment discipline

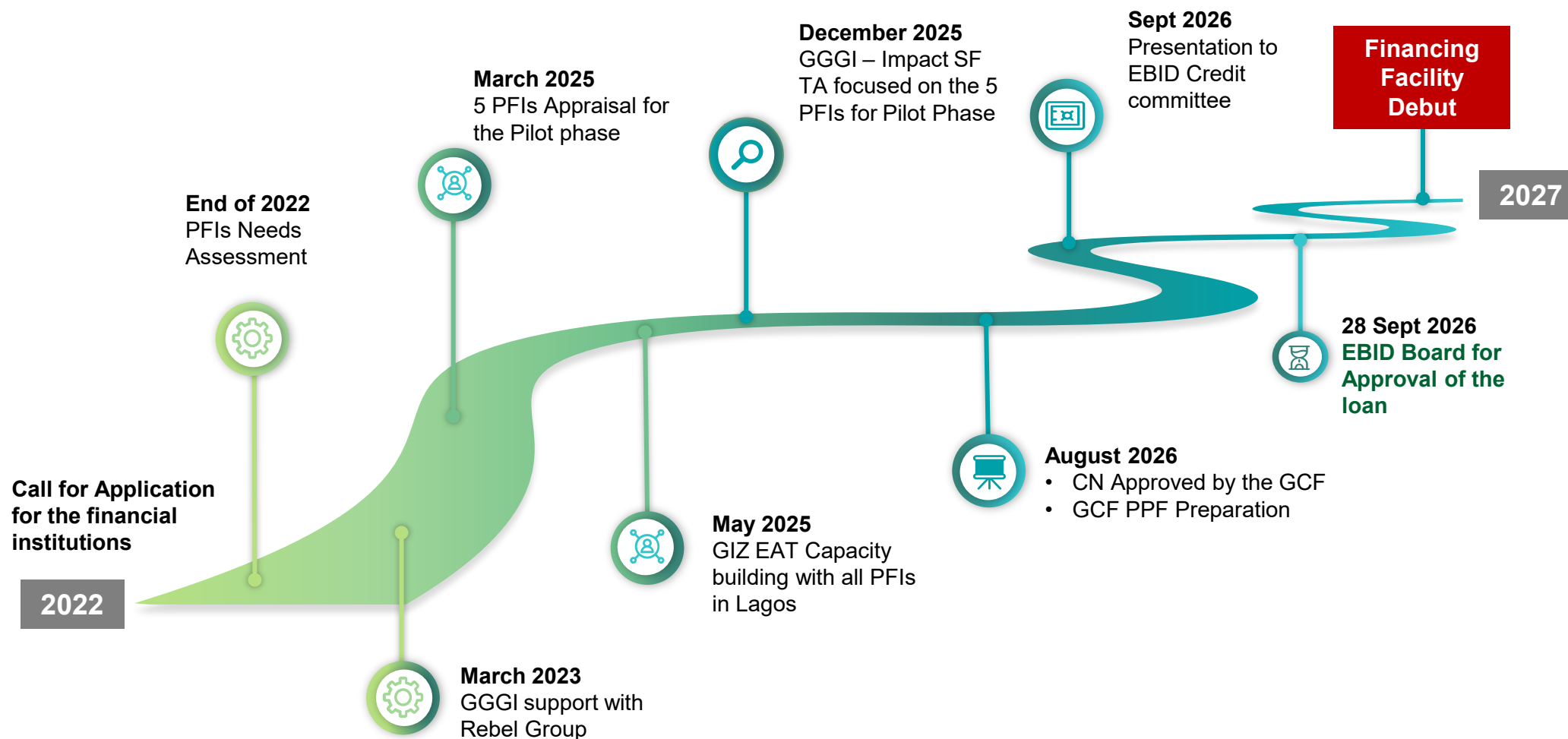
Technical Assistance Partners



WAICSA Pilot Phase Status



The pilot phase will disburse **10 million USD** for the five PFIs for a **3 years tenor**. Final Approval to be granted during **EBID September Board**



Engagement with Government So Far



NOL received 6 out of 12

- ✓ Cote d'Ivoire
- ✓ Gambia
- ✓ Guinea
- ✓ Guinea Bisau
- ✓ Nigeria
- ✓ Togo

What is requested from Governments

- 1 Full endorsement of the Initiative by Governments
- 2 Obtain remaining NOL from Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Guinee Bissau, Sierra Leona, Capo Verde and Gambia
- 3 Support and Facilitate national Stakeholders Engagement
- 4 Support and Contribute to the Full proposal stage
- 5 Facilitate Implementation of the programme scale up

Immediate Next Steps



Issuance of the NoLs by remaining countries : Benin, Capo Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leona



Starting of the PPF phase with the development of the ToR for each necessary activity and/or studies as well as national Stakeholders engagement



Starting of the Pilot Financing Phase



Drafting and Submission the GCF Funding Proposal with all the necessary annexes

Thank you