



## i (Innovation) Research, Extension and Advisory Coordination Hub (iREACH)

**The vision of iREACH** is a strengthened West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development/Conseil Ouest et Centre Africaine pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles (CORAF) to meet the objectives of its strategic plan more widely with its broad range of partners throughout the region. In an initial pilot phase of approximately 4 years, iREACH will have a particular, although not exclusive, focus on USAID's activities in Feed the Future and Resilience Zones in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal.

### OBJECTIVES

**I. Improve coordination, alignment and integration of relevant activities**

**II. Create and strengthen technology parks and facilitate effective flow of information and innovations**

**III. Build human and institutional capacity**

### WEST AFRICA



#### Pilot Countries:

- Burkina Faso
- Ghana
- Mali
- Niger
- Senegal

Contributing partners for iREACH include CORAF, USAID-DC, USAID-West Africa, Regional Missions, SIIL, IFDC, and Africa-RISING

**Coordination • Technology Parks • Capacity Building**



Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification



**CORAF** is an international non-profit association of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in twenty-three West and Central African countries, and USAID is one of its donors. The primary objective of CORAF is to improve livelihoods in West and Central Africa through sustainable increases in agricultural production and productivity, as well as to promote competitiveness and market access. CORAF has recently developed its strategic plan, a ten-year framework (2018-2027) designed to strengthen agricultural research, extension and advisory services, and stakeholder capacities, and to establish and coordinate communities of practice in agricultural research and development around the region. This strategic plan aims to (i) increase the use of appropriate technologies and innovations in the region; (ii) increase the uptake of strategic decision-making for policies, institutions and markets; (iii) enhance institutional and human capacity in agricultural research for development; and (iv) meet the demands of agricultural knowledge for target clients.

**Rationale:** iREACH will initially focus on regions within Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal that USAID has prioritized in its Feed the Future (FtF) and resilience strategies. There are numerous USAID-funded research activities, with funding from USAID/Washington and USAID missions, in all five countries. However, most of these activities are happening in silos and are not well coordinated, connected, integrated or showcased. This makes their outputs difficult for USAID missions and other development partners to access, utilize and leverage resources. Therefore, there is a critical need to focus on the coordination, information sharing, collective engagement and alignment of activities to increase the efficiency of these investments and programming. This will allow far better implementation of USAID and other donor programs (both centrally funded, and those funded by country and regional missions).

The proposed objectives and activities of iREACH align well with CORAF's priority intervention domains – agriculture, food, and nutritional security; policy, institution, markets and trade; and gender, youth and social equity, as well as the associated activity pillars – community of practice on scaling technologies and innovations for sustainable impact; Integrated regional capacity strengthening in agri-food research and innovation; and knowledge management and foresight.



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