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WEST AFRICAN CATALOGUE OF PLANT SPECIES AND VARIETIES





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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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It was developed by the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service of FAO (AGPS) with the assistance of the Sahel Institute (INSAH), based on information received from the 17 member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Naino Jika (INSAH), Philippe Le Coënt and Robert G. Guei (FAO-AGPS) are the main contributors to the content of this publication that was designed by Simone Morini (FAO consultant).

The data presented in this catalogue have been validated by the Ministries of Agriculture of the 17 member states. Comments provided by Baffour Badu-Apraku from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ines Sanchez and Daniel Tia from the Africa Rice Center (WARDA), Lutaladio Nebambi from FAO and Arthur Da Sylva from the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA) have also significantly contributed to the improvement of this document.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATALOGUE

In conformity with the decision of seventeen West and Central African countries, members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), on the organization of the West African Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties (COAFEV), this document presents the list of varieties or varietal types whose seeds can be produced and commercialized within the territory made up by the seventeen Member States.

It is the aggregate of the varieties registered in the national catalogues of the Member States. To be registered in the West African Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties, a variety must be previously registered in a national catalogue.

National catalogues should have two distinct lists, A and B:

- ▶ List A comprises released varieties whose seeds can be multiplied and commercialized within the territory of Member States;
- ▶ List B is made up of released varieties whose seeds may be multiplied in the territory of the Member States for export outside of the territory.

A new variety must be released in order to be registered in List A of the national catalogue.

The conditions of release are as follows:

- ▶ recognition as Distinct, Uniform and Stable (DUS) through DUS testing;
- ▶ recognition as sufficiently performing as compared to a range of most commonly used varieties and as without major defect for users through testing of the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU);
- ▶ designation by an approved denomination.

A new variety must be released in order to be registered in List B of the national catalogue.

The conditions of release are the following:

- ▶ recognition as distinct, uniform and stable through DUS testing;
- ▶ designation by an approved denomination.

This document, that constitutes the first version of the COAFEV, also lists the most widely disseminated varieties within the Member States. This variety list has been established based on data provided by the Member States. After a period of transition of five years, this catalogue will only contain varieties registered in the Member States catalogues.