



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO



**Partnership towards establishing a
Coordination Unit –
ECOWAS Rice Observatory**

An ECOWAS “Rice Observatory” can help key actors in the West African rice sector better coordinate policy, value chain development, financing, and R&D to work synergistically

Rice Observatory Functions¹

1. Provide private sector and market perspective to help inform the implementation of Rice Offensive strategy and coordination with governments and donors
2. Provide input on policy harmonization from the private sector’s and farmers’ perspectives
3. Coordinate access to finance for millers, farmers, and infrastructure



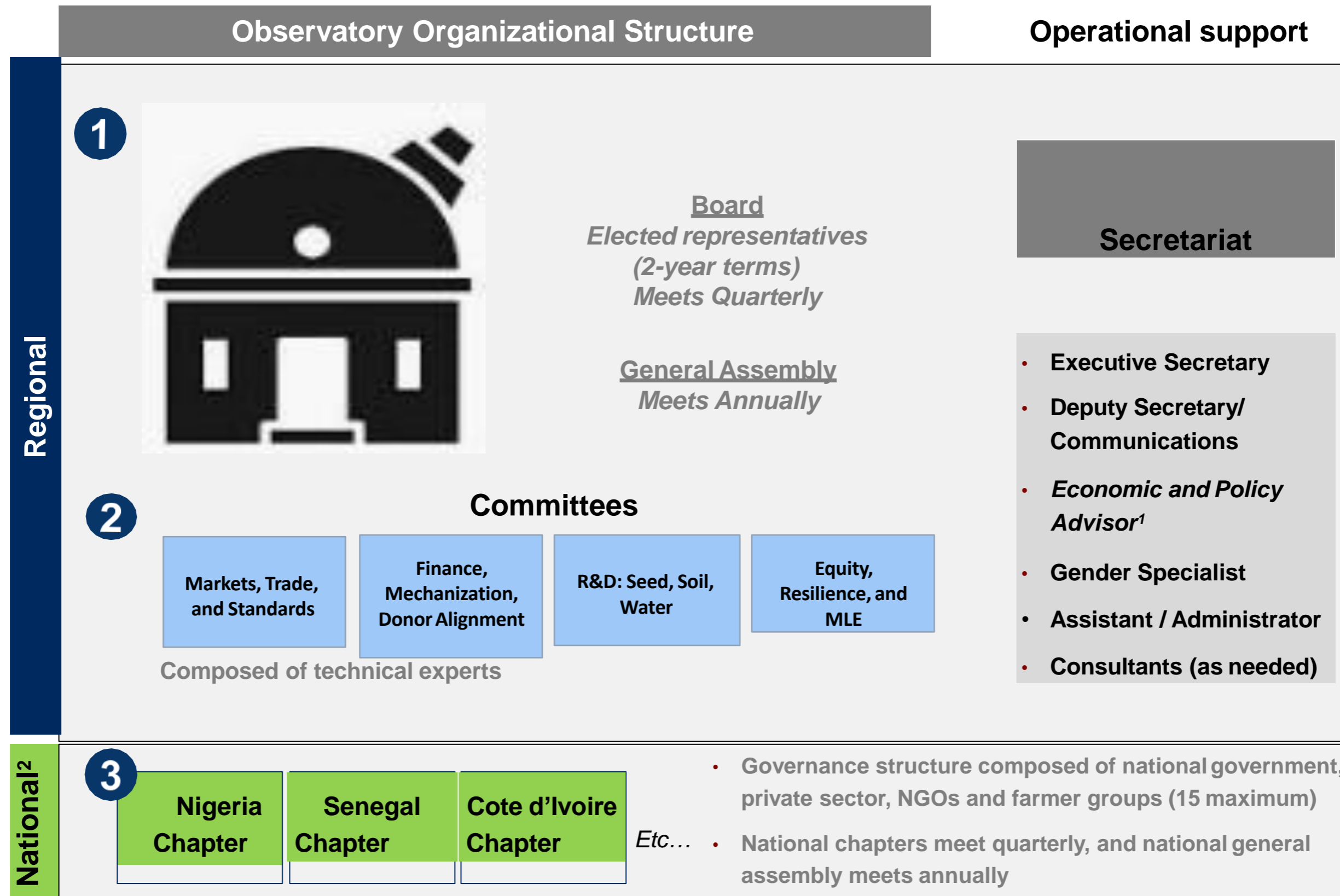
1. Preliminary ECOWAS countries to implement in initial phase are Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Ghana

The vision and objectives of the Rice Observatory are fully aligned with the ECOWAS Rice Offensive for joint and coordinated implementation



<p>Vision</p>	<p>Rice Offensive: Achieve full rice self-sufficiency in West Africa by 2025</p>	<p>West Africa will achieve rice self sufficiency by 2030 through profitable, resilient, and environmentally sustainable farming and milling enterprises that contribute to ruraleconomic growth, poverty reduction, and women’s equity</p>	
<p>Strategic objectives</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Increase rice production & yield II. Process and valorize local rice production III. Promote regional local rice market IV. Improve rice environment and policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Inclusive business models and productivity – improve the viability of business relationships via processors II. Knowledge management and cooperation – foster exchange rice value experiences III. Financial services – improve access to financing to support major value chain stakeholders IV. Policy advice – ensure private sector interests are reflected in national rice policies 	
<p>Associated outcomes</p>	<p>Partnerships</p> <p>Food security</p> <p>Economic development</p> <p>Rice agricultural development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support member countries to develop and implement National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) • Achieve food security and nutrition • Promote modernization and development of rice value chain to support economic development, employment creation and poverty reduction • Reduce rice import dependence and associated drain on foreign exchange and assist member states to become rice exporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships through facilitating rice private sector “voice” in national policy discussions • Improve incomes and food security for direct and indirect participants of the rice value chain • Support dignified employment generation, especially for women in smallholder households, and economic development • Enhance sustainable and productive rice agriculture through training in good agricultural practices (GAP) and climate change adaptation according to Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) standards

The Observatory, would have a *bottom-up structure*, taking action on the strategic priorities identified by national-level stakeholders, but at a regional level



1. New position recommended since the draft Secretariat proposed in Phase 2 of this study

2. Priority ECOWAS countries to implement in initial phase are Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and Ghana

National priorities, mainly from the private sector, would roll up to the Observatory to inform regional policy in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission, Africa Rice, and major donors

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ECOWAS RICE OBSERVATORY BOARD
Up to 15 total
Permanent Chair (ECOWAS), Elected Vice-Chair, Secretary

Board seats are allocated to national chapters of countries having the highest scalable milling capacity capable of most effectively competing with imports and contributing to the goal of *regional* rice self-sufficiency.

Permanent ECOWAS
1 seat

Permanent Africa Rice
1 seat

The national chapters join the Board as they are established.
The initial Board will consist of only ECOWAS Commission, Africa Rice, and development partners

Ghana Chapter Chair
1 seat

Burkina Faso Chapter Chair
1 seat

Senegal Chapter Chair
1 seat

Sierra Leone Chapter Chair
1 seat

Nigeria Chapter Chair
1 seat

Cote d'Ivoire Chapter Chair
1 seat

Countries with less scalable milling capacity would have one rotating seat on the Board

Niger
Benin
Guinea...

Other ECOWAS countries
1 seat

Development Partners
4-6 seats

World Bank
AfDB
IsDB
BMZ/GIZ
BMGF
FCDO

Reserved for 4-6 development partners contributing the most funding regionally to support the West African rice sector

2

SECRETARIAT
Executive Secretary
Deputy Secretary (Communications)
Economics and Policy Advisor
Gender Specialist

The technical committees are based on the priorities identified by stakeholders in the workshop (Nov '20) and ECOWAS Rice Action Plan meeting (Feb '20).

Markets, Trade, and Standards Committee

Finance, Mech. and Donor Alignment Committee

R&D: Seed, Soil, Water Systems Committee

Equity, Resilience, and MLE Committee

General Assembly
Meeting of all ECOWAS member states (15 nations), AfricaRice, regional rice farmer networks, specialized NGOs, etc. to review, discuss, and approve Board recommendations

*One the security situation in Mali improves and a national SRP chapter can be established there, Mali will be prioritized for a Board seat given its volumes. Source: Team analysis