



## Press release on Food and Nutrition Situation in the Sahel and West Africa

### "The overall satisfactory food and nutrition situation is confirmed"

The participants in the regional consultation meeting on food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa, held in Accra from 29 to 31 March 2016 as part of the regional Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC) mechanism, arrived at the following conclusions:

1. The production trends that were announced in November 2015 are confirmed. Thus, cereal production is estimated at 64.4 million tonnes, representing 5% and 13% increases respectively compared to last year (2014-2015) and the last five-year (2010-2014) average. However, production declines are recorded in Burkina Faso (-7%), Guinea Bissau (-8%) and Chad (-9%) relative to the five-year average. Regarding tubers, production levels estimated at 157 million tonnes are also above the average of the past five (5) years. The same holds true for cash crops including groundnuts with 8.4 million and cowpea with 5.5 million and sesame with 673.000 metric tonnes.
2. On the pastoral level, the feeding and watering conditions of livestock are better than last year's in the same period despite forage shortages recorded particularly in Niger and Chad. Both countries already witness an early pastoral lean season that could be exacerbated due to the exhaustion of residual fodder stock and drying up of certain surface water points. In general, transhumance movements remain normal except in forage deficit areas and conflict areas, especially in the Lake Chad Basin.
3. Overall, the markets functioning is satisfactory and strengthened by regular movements of flows of agricultural and food products, except in the conflict area around the Lake Chad Basin, where the market functioning is still disrupted. The major cereal prices are generally stable except in the Gambia, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Mauritania. Moreover, significant price decreases are reported in Senegal and Niger. Regarding the prices of other food products, including tubers, the prices are generally up despite the good availability of the products. It is the same for cash crops (groundnuts and cashews) except for cowpea and sesame that record significant price decreases in Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. The terms of trade for livestock against cereals are overall favourable to the pastoralist. However, they are deteriorating in the area around Lake Chad, which impacts negatively the income and consumption of households in Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.
4. On livestock markets, animal prices remain up overall compared to the average compared to average except in Chad and in certain markets in Burkina Faso and Niger. This may be due not only to the depreciation of the currency of countries of destination (Ghana Cedi and Nigerian Naira) but also trade problems.
5. In perspectives, from now to the lean season, the prices of the major commodities will experience seasonal increases across the region, with more significant increases in Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Chad.
6. The nutritional situation remains worrying in the region as indicated by the results of recent surveys conducted in post-harvest/harvest period with global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence rates above the warning or emergency thresholds in some regions of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Nigeria. This situation could deteriorate during the pre-harvest hungry period in 2016, primarily due to the emergence of certain seasonal diseases, including malaria and diarrhoea. Approximately 5.9 million children under five years of age might suffer from global acute malnutrition in 2016 including 1.9 million in its severe form in West Africa if appropriate measures are not taken.
7. The food situation is generally acceptable. However, 6.7 million people are affected by food and nutrition insecurity exacerbated by the effects of civil insecurity including nearly 4.2 million displaced persons in the region due to civil insecurity in the region in the Lake Chad Basin, in northern Mali, Libya, Central African Republic and Sudan. Indeed the number of people requiring food assistance

has declined from December 2015 ( 7.9 million ) to March 2016 due to the positive effect of mitigation measures implemented by governments and their partners among other. However the number of these vulnerable populations could be as up as 9.5 million people during the lean season (June - August) if immediate action is not taken to improve their level of food consumption, protect their livelihood and prevent and treat malnutrition.

8. Given all the above, the meeting recommends:

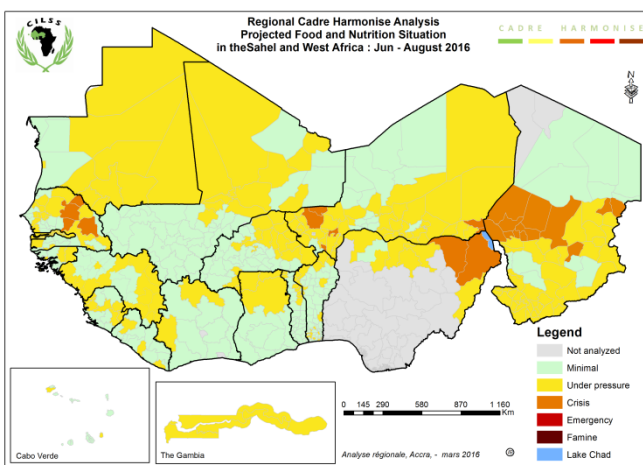
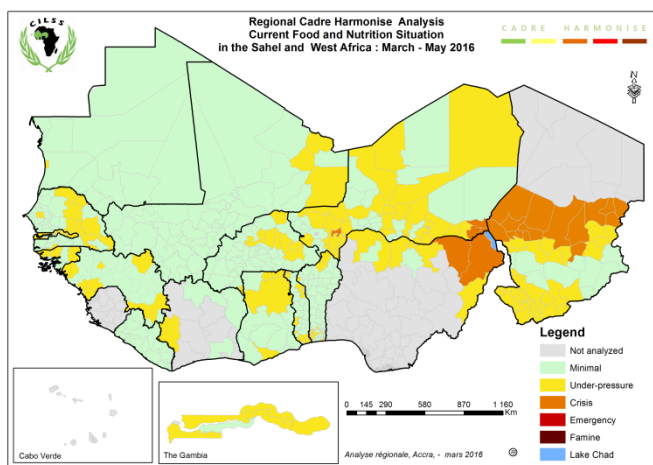
**To the States and their partners:**

- Accelerate the development and rapid implementation of national response plans for food and nutrition insecure populations;
- Accelerate the implementation of emergency programmes for the livestock sector to prevent risks of pastoral crisis in Niger and Chad.
- Strengthen surveillance, prevention and management of malnutrition while also acting on its structural causes ;

**To CILSS and its partners:**

- Promote the integration process of nutrition indicators in agricultural sample surveys and their inclusion in food and nutrition security analyses;
- Keep watch permanently on the regional market to detect malfunctions on a timely basis

Done in Accra, on 31 March 2016



Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Under pressure	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Urgency	Phase 5 Hunger
At least four out of five households are capable of meeting their food and non-food needs without resorting to coping strategies, nor depending on food aid.	Even with humanitarian assistance, at least one household out of five in the area is in the following situation or in a worse one, viz : a reduced consumption and of a minimal adequacy but cannot afford some non-food expenses without embarking on irreversible coping strategies.	Even with humanitarian assistance, at least one household out of five in the area is in the following situation or in a worse one, viz :considerable food deficits and acute malnutrition at high rates of above the normal one ; or marginally capable of meeting the minimum of its food needs by levying on assets related to livelihoods; which will lead to food consumption deficits.	Even with humanitarian assistance ; at least one household out of five in the area is the following situation or in a worse one , viz extreme food deficits ; which results in a very high acute malnutrition or an excessive mortality or an <b>extreme loss of assets related to livelihoods</b> ; which will entail food consumption deficits in the short-term high.	Even with humanitarian assistance , at least one household out five in the area has a complete food deficit and for other basic needs and is clearly exposed to starvation , death and to complete destitution ( It is worth noting evidence for the three criteria for food consumption ,stunting , and Gross Mortality Rate(GMR) are required for classifying as a hunger situation).

