



COMITE PERMANENT INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL
PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL



Centre Régional AGRHYMET

Graduation of the first sets of *Mastere* in Food Security and Nutrition and *Mastere* in Sustainable Land Management.

36 students graduated from AGRHYMET Regional Centre

The official ceremony took place on January 23rd 2013 in AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC). It was chaired by Professor Bouafou Kouamé Guy Marcel, the Director General of ARC with Professor Atta Sanoussi, acting Head of Trainings and Research Department, Dr Maty Ba Diao, Head of Information and Research Department, Mr Mamadou Samaké, Head of Technical Support Department and Mr Etienne Sarr, Head of Continues Training Unit.

The ceremony was marked by the presence of the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Permanent Secretary of the CILSS National Committee, the General Directors of EAMAC and ACMAD, the representatives of the European Union, UEMOA and the National Direction of Meteorology, the students, the ARC staffs and many guests.

In his speech, Professor Bouafou firstly recalled that the mission of the ARC is to train and to inform the Sahel and West African populations in the areas of food security, drought control and water management.

Then, he noted that the training of 36 students in these two *Mastere*'s courses is a real source of satisfaction for the CILSS and its partners as it meet the needs of the Sahel and West Africa facing food insecurity and land degradation. The Director General subsequently congratulated the graduate's students and urged them to put their knowledge for the benefit to the communities of the sub-region. Also, he thanked all partners, including the European Union which funded this training and the French Development Agency, the Belgian Technical Cooperation, UEMOA and the National Agency for Scholarships Awards of Niger for allocation scholarships to some of students of these *Mastere*'s. Professor Bouafou paid also homage to all the trainers for their high sense of responsibility and the quality of the trainings.

Previously, Professor Atta Sanoussi introduced the two *Mastere*'s. He focused on the main lines and the opportunities of these *mastere*'s which were composed of 16 students, including 3 women for the *Master* Food Security and Nutrition and 20 students with 3 women for the *Master* in Sustainable Land Management. Among these graduates' students, 67% come from countries services, 14% from NGOs, 6% from research and 14% are direct entry students. These results bring the number of graduated students from ARC at 1200 in *Mastere*'s, Engineer and Senior Technicians levels.

For his part, the representative of students sent on the behalf of his mates, a word of thanks to the Director General, the financial partners and all ARC staff. He also expressed his gratitude to the trainers, for the quality of the programme and also for the valuable advice they received during training.

The ceremony ended with a family photo and a cocktail hosted by the Director General.

Awards of Excellence were given to the first three students in each set. This is in order of merit:

Mastere Food Security and Nutrition

- First : M. TOUDONOU Jean-Christophe Sémako Djiman (Bénin)
- Second : M. YAMEOGO Sibiri François (Burkina Faso)
- Third : M. AMEWUAME N'Tifafa Mawuli (Togo)
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Mastere Sustainable Land Management

- First 1^{er} prix : Madame ZOUNGRANA Françoise (Burkina Faso)
- Second : Monsieur HASSANE Iddé (Niger)
- Third : Monsieur CISSE Drissa (Burkina Faso)

Some pictures from the ceremony



