



PRESS RELEASE

The Climate Watch Room designed to protect West Africa and the Sahel from climate extremes is officially launched

Niamey, Niger – 30 July 2025

Under the High Patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger, AGRHYMET RCC-WA officially inaugurated the Regional Watch Room on Climatic, Hydrological, and Environmental Extremes. This state-of-the-art facility positions West Africa and the Sahel at the forefront of climate risk anticipation, early warning, and regional coordination.

Established at the AGRHYMET Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and The Sahel (RCC-WAS), the Watch Room was designed to address the growing intensity of climate extremes including floods, droughts, heatwaves, and rainfalls that jeopardize agricultural productivity and stability in the region.

"The launch of this Watch Room sends a strong signal of our determination to protect our populations and our ecosystems from the growing threats posed by climate change. This platform is not only a national asset, but a regional act of resilience and solidarity." said Mr. Yacouba Bouda the Technical Advisor representing the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Colonel Elhadj Ousmane Mahaman.

The Watch Room is a centralized platform that offers a comprehensive suite of forecasting and analysis tools, including weather, hydrological, and agronomic forecasts, as well as real-time monitoring of agricultural seasons and climate-related hazards, to support timely decision-making and risk management.

"The regional watch room embodies our collective commitment to building a West Africa and Sahel capable of anticipating climate crises and responding to them in a collaborative and effective manner." Dr Abdoulaye Mohamadou, Executive Secretary of CILSS - Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel.

The initiative was made possible thanks to the strategic support of the World Bank, through the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) whose component 1 "Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention" is led by AGRHYMET RCC-WAS, and the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) program implemented by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.

"This Watch Room is the tangible result of what we can achieve when we combine scientific expertise and regional commitment. It brings people and systems together to enable better early warnings and coordinated action across our region," explained Dr. Abdou Ali, Head of the Water and Meteorology Department at AGRHYMET.



AGRHYMET RCC-WAS's Climate Watch Room ensures continuous monitoring of climate risks and their impacts, providing reliable, up-to-date information to support rapid and informed decision-making. It strengthens the response capabilities of national services while promoting regional cooperation through data sharing and technical expertise. As a key regional hub for climate services and early warning, it fosters cross-border collaboration and enhances preparedness across West Africa and the Sahel.

"Through AICCRA, we have supported AGRHYMET RCC-WAS in building this regional capacity for climate forecast," said Dr. Robert Zougmore, AICCRA Director. "The Watch Room is an example of how investments in science and partnerships can foster agricultural sustainability and strengthen resilience in our region." He added.

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