



COMITE PERMANENT INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL
PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL
COMITÉ PERMANENTE INTER-ESTADOS DE LUTA CONTRA A SECA NO SAHEL
اللجنة الدائمة المشتركة لمحاربة التصحر في الساحل



« 50 years of commitment to serving Sahelian and West African populations »

AGRHYMET RCC WAS

AGRHYMET and MicroStep-MIS Seal Strategic Partnership to Launch Regional Calibration Laboratory for West Africa and the Sahel

August 2026

AGRHYMET Regional Climate Center for West Africa and the Sahel (AGRHYMET RCC-WAS) and MicroStep-MIS have officially signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Regional Laboratory for Maintenance Support and Calibration of Meteorological and Hydrological Instruments. The agreement, signed in July 2026, crowns months of technical dialogue and sets in motion a nine- to twelve-month preparatory phase, aimed at designing, planning, and operationalizing a facility that will serve National Meteorological and Hydrological Services across West Africa and the Sahel. The laboratory will be designed to meet World Meteorological Organization standards, ensure readiness for ISO 17025 accreditation, and provide structured training and knowledge transfer to AGRHYMET staff.

The signing of the MOU was followed by the designation of focal points, the establishment of a Joint Steering Committee, and the agreement on communication channels including email, WhatsApp, and a shared data platform. In the second milestone (currently being prepared), MicroStep-MIS will circulate a questionnaire to guide technical data collection from AGRHYMET and partner agencies. Plans are also advancing for the third milestone, which will see an AGRHYMET delegation visit MicroStep-MIS facilities in Bratislava between September and October 2026 for technical benchmarking, demonstrations, and joint reporting.

Representing the Director-General of AGRHYMET RRC-WAS, **Dr. Abdou Ali** commended both teams for their professionalism and confirmed that the MOU has been well received by the World Bank, with ECOWAS and the African Development Bank identified as strategic partners for financing and sustainability. **Jozef Omelka**, Managing Director of MicroStep-MIS, reaffirmed his company's commitment to supporting AGRHYMET in building a facility that meets international standards and delivers lasting value to the region. Prof. Mansur Bako Matazu emphasized the importance of the partnership, noting that it will ensure instruments are calibrated to the highest standards, enabling reliable forecasts and stronger disaster risk reduction.

This collaboration is expected to deliver a regionally significant calibration and maintenance hub that will provide reliable meteorological and hydrological data, enhance disaster preparedness and early warning systems, and strengthen institutional capacity across all 17 West and Sahelian countries covered by CILSS's

activities. The spirit of that cooperation was symbolized by a group photo. Other images will be released over time to illustrate the implementation of this strategic partnership.

The AGRHYMET–MicroStep-MIS partnership is not just about technology—it is about building resilience, safeguarding communities, and advancing Africa’s leadership in climate services. With strong backing from international partners, this initiative positions AGRHYMET as a continental hub for excellence in calibration and maintenance.

