Women and youth seed entrepreneurs strengthen skills and connections in Côte d’Ivoire

Women’s and youth entrepreneurship in seed systems

Scope • Regional workshop in Abidjan; six countries represented
Partners • CORAF, CNRA, a multiservice agricultural expert, ROCAFFS and regional peers

The starting situation

Women and young seed entrepreneurs need technical seed-production knowledge alongside the business skills and institutional connections required to run viable enterprises.

How partners contributed

CORAF supported a regional Seed Business workshop in Abidjan through CAADP-XP4. The programme combined seed-production instruction, business-management learning, gender inclusion and peer exchange. CNRA contributed expertise in seed production, quality control and certification; a multiservice agricultural expert covered costing, marking and business organisation. ROCAFFS represented national and regional women’s networks, while peers from Togo, Guinea, The Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone exchanged experience with Ivorian participants through French–English interpretation.

What changed

The workshop report recorded 38 participants in total, including 24 from Côte d’Ivoire, with six countries represented. Participants covered plot selection and isolation, removal of off-type plants, seed and storage, field and laboratory quality control, certification, production costing, operating accounts, marketing and business frameworks.

Evidence and source

The case documents capacity support and collaboration. The source notes that sustained seed supply and commercial benefits depend on effective follow-up, advisory links and access to resources.

Source record • SS7 Infographic

Sustainability and lessons

Training alone does not complete the delivery chain. Coaching, foundation seed, certification and advisory support can help entrepreneurs put skills into practice. Future programming should track actual adoption and business performance, not attendance alone, and strengthen links between entrepreneurs, research institutions and seed markets.