



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 RCC-WAS Scales Up Regional Forecasting Capacity with Dual Training Tracks for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services

Niamey, Niger – October 2025

The AGRHYMET Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and the Sahel (RCC-WAS), under the designation process by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has successfully launched a comprehensive training initiative to modernize seasonal forecasting capabilities across the region. This dual-track program—targeting national meteorological and hydrological services as well as river basin organizations (RBO)—marks a strategic leap toward operationalizing objective, AI-enhanced sub-seasonal and seasonal (s2s) forecasting systems in line with WMO Decision 9 (EC-72) and the 2020 guidelines on reproducibility and transparency.

Following the successful **Phase, I meteorological training** in late 2024, AGRHYMET convened **Phase II** in October-2025, deepening expertise in PyCPT, machine learning, and sub-seasonal forecasting among 28 experts from 17 NMHSs. Building on this momentum, AGRHYMET launched a parallel **action-training for National Hydrological Services (NHSs)** and rivers basin organisations (RBO) on **October 7, 2025**, with a one-month on-the-job training **program focused on seasonal hydrological forecasting**.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Henri Songoti, Acting Director General of AGRHYMET RCC-WAS, alongside Dr. Abdou Ali, Head of Weather, Water and Climate Department, and Prof. Atta Sanoussi, Head of Training and Research Department. The hydrological training aims to:

- Strengthen understanding of seasonal and sub-seasonal forecasting principles
- Promote ownership of new tools like PyCPT and AI algorithms for hydrological modelling
- Train NHSs staff in the production and evaluation of objective seasonal hydrological forecasts

- Foster regional cooperation and experience sharing on hydro-meteorological risk management

Both training tracks are supported by the World Bank-funded **AICCRA project**, which champions innovative approaches to climate resilience across Africa.

Dr. Abdou Ali emphasized: *"This integrated training effort is a cornerstone of our regional strategy. By empowering both meteorological and hydrological services, we ensure that early warning systems are robust, science-based, and ready to serve communities."*

As AGRHYMET continues to lead and seek the designation by WMO as RCC-WAS, these capacity-building efforts reaffirm its commitment to anticipatory action, regional resilience, and sustainable development.

