

## Co-Chairs' Summary of the Sixth General Meeting of CARD

Accra, Ghana, 18–19 November 2015

The Sixth General Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) was convened in Accra, Ghana on 18-19 November 2015. The meeting was attended by participants from 25 partner organizations/ institutions, five non-sub-Saharan African countries as South-South Cooperation partners, six private corporations, 21 CARD countries, and five non-CARD countries.

The meeting confirmed that **Africa has witnessed significant growth in rice production since the launching of the CARD initiative.**

However, this growth is largely attributed to expansion of cultivated areas. Even though strong productivity growth was observed between 2007 and 2010, the growth has stagnated since 2011. There are still large gaps between farmers' yields and what would be possible with better management. **Africa, therefore, should make continuous efforts to accelerate rice yield growth.**

This calls for resource allocations for adoption of good crop management practices including double cropping as well as better access to improved technologies such as seeds and fertilizers, access to credit, agricultural machineries, and other measures based on solid evidence supported by research. Financial and human resource constraints often prevent African countries to provide intense and sufficient support to the rice sector across the entire country. In addition, climate, soil, and socio-economic conditions in Africa are quite diverse even within a same country. Therefore, **African governments and their partners should make efforts toward yield increase through identification of suitable areas for rice production, sensible prioritization, realistic targeting, and differentiated approaches, tailored to the conditions of respective areas.**

Meanwhile, in many countries, relying only on yield gains in existing rice cultivated areas to boost rice production will not be enough to reach self-sufficiency in rice. Therefore, **African countries should also consider expanding rice cultivation in the more favorable areas in a sustainable and balanced manner.**

Experiences of countries with remarkable progress in rice production show not only the significant contributions that private sector can make to rice sector development, but also the importance of market forces and price incentives as drivers for success. Therefore, **the efforts to maximize private contributions to rice sector development should be facilitated through government assistance in providing an enabling business environment with emphasis on market-driven value chain**

**development, improved competitiveness of African rice in terms of quality and price, and ensuring price incentives for increasing production.**

All recommendations require strong government commitment and right sets of government policies. Therefore, **CARD will assist its member countries in implementation of a right set of policies through the provision of technical, facilitation and coordination support.**

**The meeting confirmed significant contributions made under CARD to rice production growth in Africa.** These include support in implementation of National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) - remarkable progress was made with more than 100 projects implemented in 13 countries. CARD contributions also include support to rice seed and agriculture mechanization sub-sectors. National Rice Seed Development Strategies were formulated in 10 pilot countries and implementation of the strategy has started in some countries. This support to the rice seed subsector is now extended to other CARD member countries. Meanwhile, progress of CARD support in the mechanization sub-sector is still limited. The meeting agreed that the CARD secretariat will provide additional follow-up, not limited to the first six pilot countries. During the meeting, the CARD secretariat shared information about some projects implemented under the South-South cooperation framework and a knowledge product that CARD produced on success stories in rice value chain development. **The meeting agreed to continue strengthening partnerships among African countries, South-South cooperation partner countries, and CARD partner organizations.**

The meeting also confirmed good practices under the CARD initiative based on interim results of the Mid-Term Evaluation of CARD. Additional narratives will be sought for and the results of the Mid-Term Evaluation will feed into the final evaluation that is planned for 2018. .

The meeting held a brainstorming session on the process, methodology, indicators and contents of the final evaluation of CARD as well as the future of the CARD initiative after 2018. All participants contributed with valuable inputs and ideas, and the meeting agreed that the final decision on the organization of the final evaluation of CARD will be made by the CARD Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will use inputs from the General Meeting and the result of the mid-term evaluation. The meeting suggested that the CARD initiative should be continued probably with expanded membership. The final decision on the future of CARD will be presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> CARD General Meeting and TICAD VII.

Based on the presentations on the following topics, the Meeting had discussions on various technical matters and came up with several specific recommendations for the remaining period of the CARD initiative:

## **1. Progress in implementation of the National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS)**

The CARD secretariat presented the overall progress of the NRDS implementation, particularly the process of “Fund Matching” support and the number of “CARD-labeled projects”. This was followed by the country delegates from Ghana, Madagascar and Rwanda sharing their successful experiences in NRDS implementation through mainstreaming of NRDS and fund mobilization. Common success factors for the NRDS implementation were observed in the three presentations; i) mainstreaming of NRDS in the country’s overarching development framework, ii) strong commitment and political support by the senior officials within the Ministry of Agriculture, and iii) strongly proactive and committed NRDS taskforces in resource mobilization. Taking the above observation, the meeting confirmed that CARD will continue emphasizing on integration of NRDS into country strategies/programs for overall agriculture development, and will also continue supporting “Fund Matching” activities to enhance the implementation of NRDS based on the self-initiative of NRDS taskforces.

## **2. Status of the CARD Initiative for Improved Rice Seed Sector**

The session began with an introductory presentation by the CARD secretariat on the CARD Initiative for Improved Rice Seed Sector. The presentation clarified the objectives, process and current status, covering both pilot and scaled-up phases. Two country delegates followed the introduction, presenting the status of the initiative and progress made so far at country level; Benin, representing the scale-up phase countries, and Nigeria, representing the pilot phase countries. The meeting confirmed that the steady progress has been made by pilot countries all of which have formulated the National Rice Seed Development Strategy. The meeting also observed that some countries have already started the implementation of rice seed strategy through mobilizing fund for the project concept notes. The progress in the scale-up phase countries is also steady even though the pace differs among target countries. The meeting was also informed that JICA and IRRI utilized the National Rice Seed Development Strategies and the concept notes formulated under this initiative for the designing of the training program which they jointly implement under the South-South Cooperation framework. The meeting agreed that CARD will continue supporting all target countries in formulation of National Rice Seed Development Strategy and its project/investment concept notes, and “Fund Matching” activities to mobilize resources for the implementation.

### **3. Status of CARD Pilot Initiative in Mechanization**

An introductory presentation was made by the CARD secretariat on the pilot to create enabling environments for promoting agricultural mechanization. The presentation explained procedures of the pilot, overall progress, and follow-up plan, being followed by the country presentations. The delegate from Madagascar shared the progress made under the pilot and the contents of their Mechanization strategy. The delegate from Cote d'Ivoire also presented their experience in the formulation of mechanization strategy with the support received from CARD even though the country was not targeted in the CARD Pilot Initiative on Mechanization. The meeting generally agreed to suggestions made by the CARD secretariat as the way forward; i) CARD will support the formulation of Mechanization Strategy in pilot countries where this does not exist, ii) CARD will provide technical contributions to improve the Mechanization strategies in countries where the document is still in the draft stage, or the document needs to be revised, iii) CARD will support the formulation of project/investment concept notes and "Fund Matching" activities in order to enhance the implementation of the strategy in all pilot countries. Finally the meeting agreed that support will be extended to all CARD countries based on the degree of their interest, commitment and actions initiated by country taskforces.

### **4. The Coalition's efforts and progress in South-South Cooperation**

Three presentations were made to illustrate the examples of South-South Cooperation (SSC) by CARD and its partners. The first one was by the CARD secretariat on the knowledge product that was produced by the IFAD grant for the case study and scalability assessment of selected successful African experiences in improving rice value chain. AfricaRice followed with its presentation on another IFAD grant for the SSC platform for rice mechanization in Africa. FAO made the last presentation on the regional perspective and on-going FAO initiatives under the SSC framework.

Egypt expressed its interest in increasing support provided to SSA countries under the SSC framework. Egypt will further seek for the possibility and steps to strengthen its cooperation in close communication with the CARD Secretariat and other partners.

### **5. Overall View on Rice Sector Development in Africa**

A series of presentations were made on the topic. AfricaRice presented the challenges and opportunities to boost rice sector in sub-Sahara Africa. The presentation demonstrated that the growth in rice production between 2008 and 2014 was 33% in selected 18 African countries (This figure is

based on actual production in 2008 as a baseline, while CARD uses the average of 2004-6 as the baseline). Out of 33%, the 30% was attributed to the expansion of rice cultivation areas while only 3% was attributed to the rice yield growth. The presentation was concluded with following suggestions; i) Acceleration of yield growth is necessary to further enhance rice production, ii) the target should be determined based on a yield gap assessment and the realistic yield growth rate, iii) the suitable areas for rice cultivation should be identified, and iv) AfricaRice and partners can propose research-based technologies across the rice value chain for further growth of rice sector.

Professor Otsuka followed with his presentation on “Toward a Green Revolution in Africa”. His presentation highlighted the importance of good crop management practices and the high yield increase that has been observed in some parts of Africa. Based on the analysis on these successful areas, the presentation was concluded that “Green Revolution is happening in Sub-Sahara Africa” with a potential of its scaling-up, especially through the allocation of sufficient resources for capacity building and strengthened extension services that will bring about better crop management practices, as important factors as the increased adoption of modern technologies such as fertilizer and improved seeds.

The country delegates from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Senegal shared their experience and achievements in rice production in their respective countries. In Burkina Faso, the rice production increased more than four-folds from 2007 to 2014, and the cultivated area expanded by 256%, while the productivity increase is limited to 42%. In Ethiopia, rice production grew by more than 16 times from 2007 to 2013, and the approximate increase rates for both yield and cultivated area were both significant; 70% and 1,000% respectively. In Senegal, the 70% of production increase is attributed to yield increase. From 2007 to 2014, the rice yield increased by 66%, from 2.4t/ha to 4.0t/ha. All country experiences show that the production was encouraged by high rice price incentives for farmers, while market forces and strengthened rice value chain helped improve domestically produced rice in terms of quality and price. In addition, country experiences show the importance of contributions by private sector in rice business.

Experiences from other countries and views were shared by the meeting participants, and the meeting generally agreed that Africa needs to put more emphasis on improving productivity as a primary path to increase rice production, while the expansion of cultivated areas is also necessary for Africa to fill its demand supply gap. The yield increase requires the higher adoption of good crop management practices including crop intensification such as double cropping, better water and soil management, improved technologies such as inorganic fertilizer, improved seeds and farm machineries, better access to financial and extension services, better access to markets and infrastructure development, all

of which should be based on science and evidences. Sufficient resources need to be allocated for all of them, while financial and human resource constraints are common issue among African countries.

Meanwhile, the meeting acknowledged diverse climate, soil, environmental, and socio-economic conditions of Africa, thus the need of differentiation of approaches for rice sector development in terms of crop management practices, technologies, and marketing strategies for areas with different conditions. For instance, intensive rice production is possible with investment for higher yield in areas with better endowments and market access where the potential surplus production can feed urban areas. Meanwhile the low cost and risk mitigating rice production are more appropriate for areas with less production and marketing potential where produced rice is mostly consumed by households or within local communities.

To pragmatically respond to resource constraints and the diverse circumstances, African governments and their partners should pursue yield increase through identification of suitable areas for rice production, sensible prioritization, realistic targeting, differentiation of approaches, and introduction of best solutions tailored to the conditions of respective areas. This helps African countries make the most efficient and effective use of their scarce resources.

The meeting also confirmed significant contributions that private sector can make to the growing rice sector in some African countries. Experiences of these countries illustrate the importance of market forces and price incentives as drivers for success. The meeting came to a general consensus that the efforts to maximize private contributions to rice sector development should be facilitated through government assistance in providing an enabling business environment with emphasis on market-driven value chain development, improved competitiveness of African rice in terms of quality and price, and ensuring price incentives for increasing production.

The meeting acknowledged that all measures suggested above require strong commitment of the government and the implementation of right sets of policies. The meeting, therefore, affirmed that CARD will assist its member countries in implementation of a right set of policies through the provision of technical, facilitation and coordination support.

## **6. Summary of activities by Steering Committee members**

The member organizations of the CARD Steering Committee (SC) presented their recent and future activities that are relevant to rice sector development in Africa and the CARD initiative. All presentations by the CARD SC organizations confirmed their continuous commitments in assisting

rice sector in Africa in their own approaches and cooperation frameworks based on the competitiveness and strengths of each organization. This ensures better coordination among not only CARD member partners but also the whole African rice sector, and enhances the synergy and complementarity of efforts made by all stakeholders.

## 7. CARD Mid-Term Review

Following the presentation made by the CARD Secretariat on the background, the interim results of the mid-term review of the CARD initiative was shared by the consultant who has taken on the review. The presentation covered the scope of the mid-term review, description of success stories in the CARD initiative and highlights of some findings. The meeting confirmed various positive impacts of the CARD initiative in the presented narratives, while acknowledging the necessity of further stocktaking successful experiences. The meeting also generally agreed to the following recommendation:

**Recommendation:** *The results of the mid-term review should be fed into the final evaluation of CARD that will be carried out by the end of the initiative. Narratives collected in the mid-term review will be valuable elements to qualitatively evaluate the CARD contributions to the rice sector development in Africa.*

## 8. Way Forward for the CARD Initiative

Following the introductory presentation by the CARD Secretariat, the meeting held a brainstorming session on the indicators, methodologies and procedures of the final evaluation of CARD, and the future of the CARD initiative after 2018.

The meeting made relevant suggestions, and some key suggestions include, but not limited to;

- i) On Final evaluation
  - The evaluation should consider the different timing of launching between G1 countries and G2 countries.
  - The final evaluation should look at the CARD initiatives in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability and impact.

- An internal evaluation, especially by individual countries, may be also helpful to capture the whole picture of the CARD initiative.
  - The final evaluation should look at progress in priority areas of each country that have assisted through CARD.
  - Categorization of the CARD countries by different traits, locations and endowments, and analysis based on the categories maybe helpful.
  - The final evaluation should look at the institutional set up at country level (not only implementation, but also policy and research).
- ii) On Post-CARD
- CARD should continue after 2018.
  - The membership should be expanded.
  - Extension to other target crops might be considered, while keeping rice as a mainstay.
  - Final evaluation should determine the design of the next phase, including the extension of the crops.
  - The structure and implementation models of CARD should be improved based on the evaluations.

The final decision on details will be made by the CARD Steering Committee after their continuous discussions on both final evaluation and the future of the CARD initiative beyond 2018. The Steering Committee will use inputs from the General Meeting and the result of the mid-term evaluation. The results of the final evaluation on the CARD initiative and the way forward for the future of CARD after 2018 will be presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> CARD General Meeting and TICAD VII.

## 8. Other Businesses

The 12<sup>th</sup> CARD Steering Committee is scheduled in conjunction with TICAD VI in Nairobi. The 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting will be held some time in 2018, even though the exact timing and venues for these events have yet to be decided.



## **Appendix - List of Participating Countries and Agencies**

### <Governments of CARD Member Countries>

Republic of Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Republic of Cameroon  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Republic of Ghana  
Republic of Guinea  
Republic of Kenya  
Republic of Liberia  
Republic of Madagascar  
Republic of Mali  
Republic of Mozambique  
Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Republic of Rwanda  
Republic of Senegal  
Republic of Sierra Leone  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Togolese Republic  
Republic of Uganda  
Republic of Zambia

### <Governments of South-South Cooperation Partner Countries>

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Republic of Indonesia  
Republic of the Philippines  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

### <Governments of non-CARD Member Countries from Sub-Saharan Africa>

Republic of Angola  
Republic of Burundi  
Republic of Guinea-Bissau  
Republic of Malawi

Republic of Sudan

<Private Sector Partners>

Coumba Nor Thiam Thiam Suarl

CV. Karya Hidup Sentosa

FarmEquipment Tanzania Ltd.

OLAM International Ltd.

Seed Trade Association of Ghana (STAG)

WACOT Ltd.

< Development Partners/ Institutions/ Initiatives>

African Seed Network

Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD)

Africa Rice Center (AfricRice)

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Ghana Irrigation Development Authority

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA)

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)

Sasakawa Africa Association

Scaling Seeds and other Technologies Partnership (SSTP)

Société nationale d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des terres du Delta du fleuve et de la Vallée du Fleuve Sénégal (SAED).

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

World Bank

World Food Program (WFP)