

Co-Chairs' Summary of the Third General Meeting of CARD
Arusha, Tanzania, 18–19 May 2010

The Third General Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) convened in Arusha, Tanzania on 18–19 May 2010. Participants from 19 partner organizations/institutions, five non-sub-Saharan African countries as South-South Cooperation partners and 12 CARD First Group countries, together with 9 Second Group countries, attended.

The Agenda comprised presentations and discussions on the following topics.

1. Progress achieved in the National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) of the first group of countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda).

Each delegate made a brief presentation on the progress achieved in the formulation and operationalization of their respective NRDS since the Second General Meeting (Tokyo, June 2009). Conclusions from the floor discussions were as follows:

- The participants acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the First Group countries under different and sometimes difficult circumstances. It was recommended that the respective NRDS Task Forces of the First Group countries should continue to build their capacities in order to fulfil their duties, i.e. updating and further elaboration of needs-resource matching and coordination and/or monitoring of in-country stakeholders' interventions.
- The participants acknowledged and appreciated the information generated through the joint efforts of the Coalition partners which enables in-depth and focused discussion among stakeholders about the actual operationalization of the NRDS.
- Finally, the participants agreed that there are several key development partners the Coalition has not captured. They agreed that NRDS Task Forces should identify and involve such partners, both private and public and the vehicles of south-south cooperation, in elaborating and implementing their investment plans.

2. Status of the coordination of rice-related assistance

Supporting partners shared information both in terms of incremental assistance for rice-related development programs/projects and on their efforts for effective and stronger

partnership coordination and collaboration. In this regard, IFAD presented results from a study on “enhanced integration of NRDS with the Poverty Reduction and National Development Strategies and related sector priority setting and financing processes” to which most donors' country strategies and programs are aligned. Finally, the south-south cooperation partners, namely Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, reported on their recent support for the rice sector development in SSA countries.

- The participants appreciated the efforts being made for rice development in SSA by Supporting Partners both individually and in coalition. It was strongly recommended that Supporting Partners should continue these efforts to ensure that their future interventions provide support to the implementation of the NRDS in order to create more synergies.
- In accordance with the above, the capacity of NRDS Task Forces must be further strengthened to enhance in-country coordination of rice-related interventions in conformity with the overall sector strategies.
- The participants agreed that the outcome of the IFAD study is extremely informative and practical in guiding participating countries towards sustainable rice-related investment in the agriculture sector.
- It was strongly recommended, particularly for countries with an on-going CAADP process, that the NRDS are firmly reflected in the CAADP Investment Plan being developed. To make this contribution to the Investment Plan formulation process, good coordination of NRDS implementation with the CAADP Investment Plan process is indispensable. NEPAD–CAADP has offered its assistance in that process.
- With regard to south-south cooperation, the participants appreciated such continued support to and interest in the rice sector development in SSA, and urged the CARD Secretariat to accelerate its efforts along this avenue.

3. Assistance for CARD Second Group countries

The CARD Steering Committee made a proposal for the Coalition's support to additional 11 Sub-Saharan African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia. The Meeting unanimously approved the proposal and the above-mentioned countries but DR Congo have been included as the CARD Second Group countries. The final decision on the inclusion of DR Congo was withheld until a later date.

This was followed by the presentation of the above-mentioned countries. The floor welcomed the progress already made by the Second Group countries and active dialogue in

preparation for the zero draft.

4. Next steps

Overall, the Meeting concluded that the recommendations made at the previous session in Tokyo have been followed up satisfactorily. With a view to consolidating the momentum established to date, the Meeting issued the following recommendations on roles and tasks.

4.1 Sub-Saharan African Rice-producing Partners (CARD Countries)

Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia are to:

- Continue needs–resource matching;
- Identify priorities to be handled at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- Coordinate with the CAADP processes to ensure that the investment priorities of NRDS are coherent with those of CAADP Investment Plans or equivalent sector investment plans;
- Establish links with representatives of the Regional Economic Communities and keep them informed and involved in advancing CARD interests;
- Continue pursuing political buy-in of the NRDS among key in-country stakeholders in rice development, and;
- Actively look for ways to connect with research institutions working on rice-based systems to enable large-scale diffusion of promising rice technologies.

4.2 Supporting Partners

The Aga Khan Foundation, BRAC, Brazil, CRS, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, USAID, Vietnam and WFP are to:

- Take stock of south-south collaboration on rice value chains in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Contribute to the establishment of a south-south rice value chain platform (This will be facilitated by AfricaRice, FARA, IFAD, IRRI and JICA).
 - A Task Force for reducing post-harvest losses
 - A Task Force for human and institutional capacity strengthening

4.3 Steering Committee members

AfricaRice, AfDB, AGRA, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS, NEPAD and the World Bank should:

- Assist the Second Group member countries with NRDS development and provide technical assistance to facilitate the integration of NRDS into national/sector

strategies;

- Finalize a baseline study through the Rice Statistics Project of AfricaRice;
- Continue pursuing funding possibilities for NRDS implementation and south-south collaboration;
- Create awareness about CARD within the Regional Economic Communities and with other development partners;
- Actively pursue linking rice research and development activities in Africa under the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) with CARD to ensure wide-scale dissemination of sustainable rice technologies;
- With a view to improved coordination and synergies, continue exchange of assistance priorities for key factors such as capacity building, post-harvest activities and infrastructure, and;
- For facilitating south-south cooperation, put in place expertise on market place mechanisms whereby supply and demand for collaboration can be made available.

4.4 CARD Secretariat

- Assist member countries in the Second Group with NRDS development;
- Assist member countries to operationalize rice-related interventions through existing funding frameworks;
- Continue keeping track of NRDS development and implementation;
- Develop evidence-based material about the importance of the rice sector in Africa for use in sensitizing donors and countries;
- Create awareness about CARD within the Regional Economic Communities and with other development partners;
- Coordinate with the CAADP or equivalent national sector processes in monitoring and evaluation of rice sector development, and;
- Report at the next General Meeting on the status of rice production in Africa and present an assessment of progress towards achieving the target of doubling rice production by 2018.

5. Other business

- The next General Meeting will be held in Kampala, Uganda in late 2011. In the meantime, the Fifth Steering Committee will be held in the first quarter of 2011.
- The Meeting agreed to add BRAC as a Supporting Partner.

(Appendix) List of Participating Countries and Agencies

Governments of sub-Saharan Africa (SAA)

Republic of Benin
Burkina Faso
Republic of Cameroon
Central African Republic
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Republic of the Gambia
Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Kenya
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 non-SSA Countries

Republic of Indonesia
Malaysia
Republic of the Philippines
Kingdom of Thailand
Arab Republic of Egypt

Supporting Partners

African Rice Center (AfricaRice)
African Development Bank (AfDB)
Aga Khan Foundation
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

BRAC

Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO)

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Irish Aid

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)

Sasakawa Africa Association

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

World Bank

World Food Program (WFP)