

Co-Chairs' Summary of the Fourth General Meeting of CARD

Kampala, Uganda, 8–9 November 2011

The Fourth General Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) convened in Kampala, Uganda on 8–9 November 2011. Participants attended from 18 partner organizations/institutions, six non-sub-Saharan African countries as South-South Cooperation partners and 12 CARD First Group countries, together with 10 Second Group countries.

The meeting noted the significant progress that had been made since the establishment of the Coalition as a global partnership in keeping to its regional focus and in producing quantified, time-bound, commodity-related results. This progress included development of National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS), diagnostics and priority focus areas, mapping of rice-related interventions, efforts to link NRDS to other relevant country-led processes, and promoting South-South cooperation. After taking stock of CARD's achievements, the participants underlined the need for obtaining a better understanding of the key drivers – at global, regional and country levels – for scaling up rice production. They also stressed the need to identify good practices, develop and utilise capacities, build partnerships, mobilise resources, track results, manage knowledge and enhance South-South cooperation.

The agenda included presentations and discussions on the following topics.

1. Progress achieved with the National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS)

Each country delegate made a brief presentation on the progress achieved since the Third General Meeting (Arusha, Tanzania, May 2010) in the formulation and operationalization of their respective NRDS in Agenda 3 and 4. Notably, the Meeting welcomed the launching of NRDS in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia. On the other hand, the participants reaffirmed the need for continued efforts on the part of those countries that had not yet finalized the first versions of their NRDS and appealed for continuing support for this from the development partners. Meanwhile, many countries of the First Group and some countries of the Second Group had already reached the stage where they have identified priority interventions based on systematic gap analysis, and had drawn them up as concept notes.

While it was felt that satisfactory progress had been made overall, the Meeting nevertheless felt that the quality of the NRDS implementation still required improvement, which included getting the NRDS into better alignment with the respective country CAADP

frameworks. Equally importantly, the Meeting felt that the way in which the Task Forces involve their 'champions' will be extremely crucial to their success in materializing their priority interventions.

***Recommendation 1:** NRDS Task Forces will regularly update the gap analysis and priority interventions for their national rice sectors. In doing so, they will improve the quality and robustness of their work, including achieving better alignment with country-led processes, such as CAADP and other relevant frameworks through more balanced and diverse participation of key stakeholders, including non-agricultural line ministries and the private sector.*

***Recommendation 2:** With a view to ensuring the sustainability of the NRDS process, the NRDS Task Forces are encouraged to seek additional sources of funding to supplement what is provided by the CARD Secretariat, for activities related to the NRDS implementation through, for example, securing the government budget and establishing linkages with other relevant in-country processes.*

***Recommendation 3:** As the crucial step towards ensuring the success of the NRDS implementation, the NRDS Task Forces will pursue the operationalization of the priority interventions identified. This will mean greater involvement by the 'champions' and identification of incentives to secure their support. The CARD Secretariat will provide appropriate support to the Task Forces in these aspects.*

***Recommendation 4:** NRDS Task Forces that have not yet finalized their NRDS Version One will continue to focus on their completion, with the Steering Committee members mobilizing local institutions to provide technical support where that is necessary.*

2. Status of rice-related assistance from development partners

A review of the assistance from the Steering Committee members was presented by the Secretariat with some members providing further elaboration. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the upward trend in rice production recorded over the last three years in the CARD countries. The participants also applauded the support from Steering Committee members and other development partners, both for rice-related development and in strengthening functions of the agricultural sector, which provide an essential base for supporting segments of the rice sector in a balanced manner. It was, however, felt that more effort and assistance would be required to achieve the Initiative's goal as well as to refine quantitative and qualitative targets and the indicators of the processes and results (inputs, outputs, outcomes), which should be done in synchrony with relevant M&E systems of the countries and agencies.

***Recommendation 5:** The CARD Secretariat should follow-up with the Steering Committee members to review and make proposals on cost-effective ways to track processes and results,*

as a tool to guide Steering Committee deliberation and to help enhance the partners' support of the CARD Initiative at country level.

3. The Coalition's efforts to advance South-South Cooperation

The South-South cooperation countries – Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – made presentations in Agenda 6 on their human and infrastructural capacities related to rice research and extension, as well as on their recent activities in capacity development in sub-Saharan Africa. The ensuing FAO presentation highlighted its scheme of South-South cooperation. Additionally, as a follow-up to recommendations from the last General Meeting, FARA presented a plan for creating a common platform for facilitating and accelerating South-South exchanges. The pilot phase of this initiative would be funded by IFAD and would be executed by AfricaRice and IRRI.

Recommendation 6: Concerned CARD countries will confirm their interest in joining the South-South Cooperation platform and related priority areas as a basis for finalising the programme of work under the IFAD-funded project. South-South Cooperation countries will further develop the information on available facilities and human resources related to rice research and extension, post-harvest activities and other relevant segments of the rice value chain.

Recommendation 7: FARA, AfricaRice and IRRI will collaborate in creating the platform for enhanced South-South exchange, including linkages with relevant South-South cooperation initiatives and programmes. Steering Committee members will provide information on their on-going or planned South-South cooperation initiatives and make suggestions on opportunities from which the above-mentioned platform could benefit.

4. The Coalition's efforts to develop the private sector

The Coalition, cognizant of the significant roles of the private sector in promoting rice development in Africa, has undertaken to capture various categories of the private sector in its network. Several events were conducted in the area of mechanization, with particular emphasis on providing an enabling environment for private players on the value chain. Based on the progress reported in Agenda 7, the Meeting agreed to continue this effort by having some NRDS Task Forces work on policy recommendations in the NRDS implementation round next year, with full participation by key in-country stakeholders.

Recommendation 8: Concerned NRDS Task Forces will follow up on the recommendation on mechanization in the context of relevant processes at the country level. Relevant Steering Committee members will provide technical assistance to the process, while others will explore

opportunities for advocacy at the high-level forums. The CARD Secretariat will provide financial and technical assistance for in-country / regional meetings.

The Council of Ministers of Agriculture for West and Central Africa (CMAOC), the Lead Agency of CAADP Pillar Two, informed the meeting in Agenda 7 about its efforts to improve and expand market access for agricultural commodities, particularly by strengthening the capacities of private entrepreneurs, including commercial and smallholder farmers. The Meeting recognized the common objectives of the Coalition and CMAOC with respect to improved market access and therefore felt that collaboration between the two parties to pursue this end would be mutually beneficial.

***Recommendation 9:** The CARD Secretariat will communicate with CMAOC and explore the modalities of assisting interested NRDS Task Forces to program-in addressing issues of market access.*

5. Accelerating efforts in capacity development

The Meeting was informed about the status of capacity development activities by key Steering Committee member organizations in Agenda 5. While the Meeting appreciated the interventions that had been made as well as those already planned, it remained concerned that these were not sufficient and requested increased and more concerted efforts aimed at meeting the quantitative human capacity targets set by the Second CARD General Meeting in June 2009. In this regard, AfricaRice provided an update on the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) in Agenda 7 and expressed its expectation that the Coalition, as a unique forum of both research and development institutions, would be able to play more catalytic roles to facilitate capacity development interventions.

***Recommendation 10:** Steering Committee members will discuss ways in which capacity development assistance could be accelerated.*

6. Conclusions

Overall, the Meeting concluded that the recommendations made at the previous session in Tanzania have been followed up in a satisfactory manner. In particular, the Coalition's support for the implementation of NRDS had provided opportunities to strengthen capacity and ownership of the key government stakeholders in rice sector development. On the other hand, the Meeting requested the Coalition to expand and strengthen networking among the development partners, South-South cooperation partners, and more importantly, the private sector, in order to achieve rice sector development in a more efficient and sustainable manner.

7. Other business

The Seventh CARD Steering Committee will be held in mid-2012 and the next CARD General Meeting will be held early in 2013. The Venues for these events have yet to be decided.

(Appendix) List of Participating Countries and Agencies

Governments of Sub-Sahara African Countries

Republic of Benin

Burkina Faso

Republic of Cameroon

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

Arab Republic of Egypt

Republic of Indonesia

Malaysia

Republic of the Philippines

Kingdom of Thailand

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Development Partners

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

BRAC

Conference of Ministers of Agriculture for West and Central Africa (CMA/AOC)

Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO)

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex

International Fertilizer Development Corporation (IFDC)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA)

Sasakawa Africa Association

World Bank

World Food Program (WFP)