

Coalition for African Rice Development : CARD

1. Background and Necessity of CARD

Since the latter half of 1990s, rice demand in Sub-Saharan Africa (hereafter referred to as Africa) has continued to rise sharply, thus expanding the volume of imports. The recent fluctuations in global grain prices have aggravated the situation and made the poor more vulnerable to the risks of food insecurity. Considering the circumstances, efforts to expand rice production in Africa are urgently needed. Since rice is considered a unique major cereal with high potential within the region for increased production, gathering international support for this crop is clearly important. This will contribute not only to the improvement of food security, but also to rural development and poverty alleviation in the region.

Based on this understanding, JICA, in partnership with AGRA, launched an initiative now known as the “Coalition for African Rice Development” (CARD) on the occasion of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in Yokohama, Japan in May 2008. CARD is an initiative to support the efforts of African countries to increase rice production. It also forms a consultative group of donors, research institutions and other relevant organizations to work with rice producing African countries.

2. Target of CARD

The goal of CARD is to double the rice production in Africa from the present 14 million tons/year to 28 million tons/year by 2018.

3. Potential and Approach for Increase of Rice Production

To date, increases in rice production in Africa have been attained mainly by area expansion, while yield increases, of the type realized through a “Green Revolution” in the case of Asia, have rarely been observed. A focus on rice yields should therefore be a priority. In addition an estimated 20 million ha of unexploited lowland suitable for rice cultivation exists across Africa, which if developed could provide considerable increases in rice production in a sustainable way.

Approach by Agro-Ecology

CARD will promote breeding and selection of improved varieties, including NERICA, improvement of cultivation techniques and increased use of inputs (water, fertilizer, etc.), while recognizing the differing requirements across the three major agro-ecologies for rice cultivation in Africa, “irrigated field”, “rain-fed lowland” and “rain-fed upland”. More specifically, CARD prioritizes the rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities and the strengthening of water user’s associations, the establishment of a rice development model with extension for rain-fed lowland, and intensified NERICA dissemination for rain-fed upland.

Value Chain Approach

Recognizing the necessity to improve the quality of local rice to compete with imported rice, CARD will promote the development of a rice value-chain, including post-harvest processing, marketing and trading.

Capacity Development Approach

Capacity development is the most crucial issue for rice promotion in Africa, and therefore CARD will promote and support training for researchers, extension officers and key farmers engaged in rice cultivation to enhance their capacity.

South-South Cooperation Approach

CARD will seek to utilize the know-how of Asian countries which have long history and experiences in rice cultivation.

4. Framework of CARD

(1) Characteristics of CARD

CARD is a consultative group of donors, research institutions and other relevant organizations which aims to promote rice cultivation in Africa via information sharing, harmonization of existing initiatives and projects and advocacy for further investment.

(2) Implementing Bodies

General Meeting

The General Meeting is the highest body for consultations, deliberations and decisions of CARD participating organizations, related to all aspects of the implementation of CARD. It will be organized once every 2 years and be attended by senior level representatives of all participating organizations.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is responsible for keeping good and effective management of CARD. It will meet once in a year and be attended by executive level representatives of all organizations participating in CARD who wish to join it.

Secretariat

A secretariat for CARD was set up in the headquarters of AGRA in Nairobi and began its work in October 2008. It will give all necessary support to assure the smooth implementation of CARD activities. The secretariat consists of 3 staff members seconded from AGRA, FARA and JICA.

(3) Organizations participating in CARD ('CARD Supporting Partners')

Current members are AGRA, NEPAD, FARA, FAO, WARDA, IRRI, JIRCAS and JICA. However discussions are ongoing with the WB, AfDB, IFAD, WFP, USAID, AFD, among others, who have expressed a strong interest in participating actively in CARD.

(4) Candidate Countries for CARD activities

At the 1st CARD General Meeting held at Nairobi on 29th October, 2008, 21 candidate countries for CARD activities were selected and were divided into 2 groups as listed below. The groups represent two likely waves of candidate countries, with work in the 1st group already underway, while the 2nd group, generally representing more challenging contexts, will draw upon the lessons learned from the 1st group.

1st Group

Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda

2nd Group

Benin, Burkina Faso, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, The Gambia, Togo

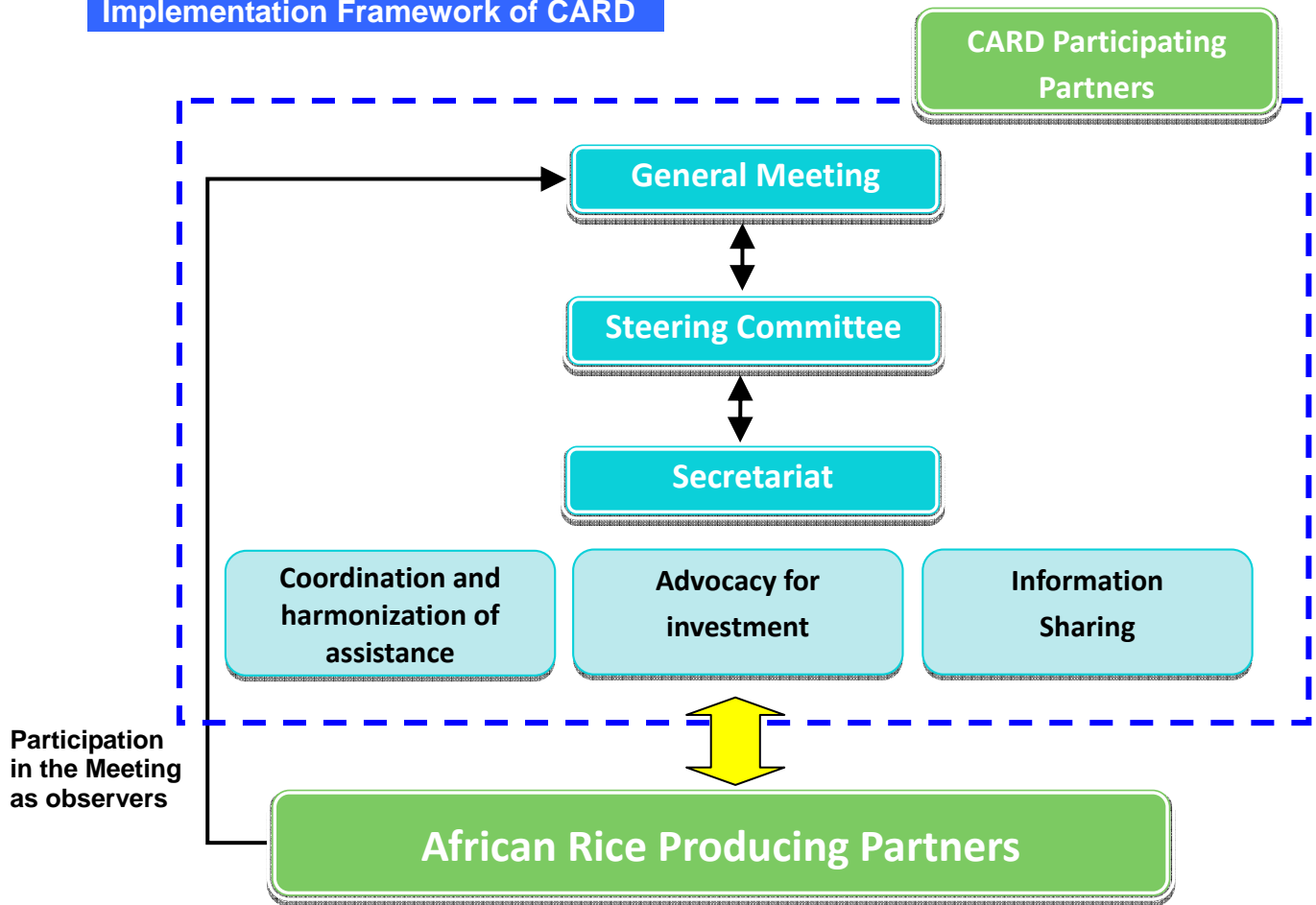
(5) National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS)

Candidate countries are requested to prepare a NRDS, wholly owned by the government, drawing on the support of the CARD secretariat as necessary. CARD Supporting Partners will then assess how they can support each candidate country's NRDS in order to maximize its chance of success.

5. Process to date and in the future

Mar 2008	Draft framework for the CARD initiative at the agricultural experts meeting for TICAD IV (hosted by Japanese MOFA in Tokyo)
May 2008	Launch of CARD initiative at TICAD IV (Yokohama)
Sep 2008	CARD Technical Level Meeting (WARDA , Benin)
Oct 2008	Approval of implementation framework for CARD, including the management and operational guidelines, lists of candidate countries, etc. at the 1 st CARD General Meeting (Kenya)
Nov 2008	Request for outlining of a NRDS made to the 1 st group of candidate countries
Feb 2009	Workshop on preparation of NRDS (WARDA, Benin)
End of Feb 2009	Submission of the 1 st draft of NRDS to the secretariat
Mar ~ Apr 2009	Consideration for possible cooperation by CARD Supporting Partners
May 2009	Presentation of NRDS and donor's cooperation strategy at the 2 nd CARD General Meeting
After June 2009	Monitoring of CARD activities in the 1 st group Start of the process for the 2 nd group (expected around the end of the year 2009).

Implementation Framework of CARD



Approach to achieve the goal of CARD

