

Summary by the Chair of the First General Meeting of CARD
Nairobi, 29th October 2008

The First General Meeting of the “Coalition for African Rice Development” (CARD) convened in Nairobi on 29th October, 2008. The General Meeting was attended by 61 participants from 28 organisations, which are interested in rice development through harmonising on-going programmes and initiatives to create synergy effects and double current rice production in sub-Saharan Africa by 2018, thereby contributing to food security and rural development under the vision of promoting an “African Green Revolution”

The General Meeting discussed the following points of note:

1. Management and Operational Guidelines (MOG) of CARD

- General Meeting adopted the proposed final draft of the MOG.
- Secretariat is up and running based in AGRA with 3 staff members.

2. Steering Committee Members

- The General Meeting agreed that the initial 7 Steering Committee members include the following organisations: AGRA, NEPAD, WARDA, FARA, IRRI, JIRCAS, and JICA.
- FAO requested, and was accepted as an additional Steering Committee member. CRS expressed interest in exploring membership.
- USAID and the World Bank, AFD, AKF, WFP, expressed their strong interest to participate actively in CARD activities.

3. Candidate Country Groupings

- List of candidate countries proposed by Steering Committee meeting on October 28th was accepted by General Meeting.
- 1st Group (12): Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda.
- 2nd Group (9): Benin, Burkina Faso, CAR, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, The Gambia, Togo.
- Mano River Union countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Cote d’Ivoire) may be addressed in a sub-regional manner if beneficial.

4. Formulating National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS)

- Extensive discussion was held on the prospective structure of NRDS as drawn up by FARA, IRRI, and WARDA.
- These organisations will revise current template to take account of comments by participants and circulate by the end of 30th October.
- A workshop will be held, possibly in December of this year, inviting the persons responsible for the NRDS in the 1st Group, to discuss purpose and preparation of NRDS. WARDA and FARA will coordinate to organise this workshop.

5. Work Plan for 2009 for CARD Secretariat

- The Work Plan for 2009 was adopted as proposed.
- The Meeting agreed that Dr. Ngongi, President of AGRA, would be Director of Secretariat, at least in the immediate term.
- Next meeting was proposed for May 2009, possibly to be hosted by JICA in Tokyo, inviting some Asian rice producing countries to explore their possible collaboration with CARD.
- Appeal was made for financial or in-kind contributions from CARD members to facilitate the operation of the Secretariat.