

Workshop on preparation of National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS)  
(2-5 February, 2009, WARDA, Benin)

The Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) Initiative has made good progress since the 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting held October 2008 in Nairobi where the 12 candidate countries were selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> group<sup>1</sup>. These countries are requested to prepare a National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS), wholly owned by the government, drawing on the support of the CARD secretariat as necessary.

The Workshop to assist the 1<sup>st</sup> group countries in formulation of NRDS was held at Africa Rice Center (WARDA) in Benin from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2009. Participants from African governments as well as resource persons from FARA and AGRA<sup>2</sup> discussed several key issues for enhanced rice production through review of all draft NRDS and ended up with a clear idea on how to improve them. A strong commitment to the CARD Initiative was recognized by governments' ownership in formulation process of NRDS which includes rice production, post-harvesting and marketing. Reflecting a number of comments, these countries have already submitted their NRDS to the CARD secretariat by the end of February.

Based on these procedures, the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting will be held at the JICA Research Institute in Tokyo in the early June. The objectives of this meeting are to present NRDS by the 1<sup>st</sup> group countries as well as to stimulate supporting partners' actions and plans for alignment/coordination efforts.



Discussion session at the workshop



Guidance of the CARD secretariat

<sup>1</sup> Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda

<sup>2</sup> FARA: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, AGRA: Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa