

## (Announcement)

### **The Support Workshop for Formulation of National Rice Development Strategies of the CARD Second Group Countries**

According to the approval of the Third General Meeting which took place in Arusha in May 2010, the Coalition has started the full fledged support to the CARD Second Group countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia.

The meeting, jointly organized by the CARD Secretariat and the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), took place from 5 to 9 July 2010, at AfricaRice, Cotonou Benin. The workshop saw the participation of the NRDS Task Force members of the above-mentioned countries as well as of some Steering Committee member organization, namely, AfricaRice, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). After the five-day intensive sessions, the event achieved the following results.

*1) Improvement of the NRDS zero draft.* The preliminary draft, prepared prior to the meeting, was presented on the first day. This was followed by the peer review on the second day with the technical advice from the Steering Committee members delegates and as well as consultants. Finally, each NRDS Task Force made clear on how to modify the document before finalizing the NRDS Version One.

*2) Governance – involving appropriate key stakeholders for operationalization and monitoring.* With a view to accelerate operationalization of rice-related investment, the Thrid General Meeting requested that NRDS be fully aligned to overarching national and sector development strategies, particularly CAADP, and to existing funding frameworks. In this workshop, there was good exchange of ideas on the process of operationalizing interventions, constraints, and key players / actions to address such constraints. Then, each Task Force worked on the way in which the NRDS will be acknowledged and endorsed by key players and institutions before launching as well as during implementation.

*3) Needs-resource gap analysis.* The NRDS Task Forces were trained on the project profile format and 'Sector / Intervention Elements Matrices (SIEM)', which are tools for analysis needs-resource gaps in terms of thematic coverage.

**4) Roadmaps.** Based on the results of the above subjects, each NRDS Task Forces presented their follow-up actions before launching of NRDS. Many countries planned the launching event by the end of this year. Technical assistance may be required for some countries for final write up of the NRDS Version One. At the moment, Benin, CAR, DR Congo, Liberia, Rwanda and Togo are expected to receive such services.

The Task Forces shall ensure that the document undergoes consultation of key stakeholders of rice sector (government, private sector, development partners) before finalizing and launching of the NRDS. While the Secretariat will closely communicate with the NRDS Task Forces to monitor their post-workshop progress, it will provide technical assistance to the countries mentioned above and financial assistance for the launching of NRDS (up to US\$ 10,000 per country).

The workshop documents can be downloaded from the [CARD website](http://www.riceforafrica.org/):  
<http://www.riceforafrica.org/>



Remarks by AfricaRice at Opening Session



Discussion at Breakout Group Session