

Concept Note

Quality Improvement of Domestic Rice - Infrastructural Development

A. Strategic context of the Project and the commitment of the government and development partners for rice sector value chains development

B. Justifications

Locally produced rice is of poor and variable quality and therefore the low patronage and consumption and uncompetitive to the imported rice among consumers particularly the urban population. This is mainly due to the poor post harvest handling of the crop resulting in quality defects such as presence of stones, varietal mixtures and mouldy grains. Inadequate post harvest infrastructure in relation to warehousing, drying patios, access roads, water, electricity and communication to enhance storage, processing and distribution of paddy and milled rice to marketing centres contribute to the generally low competitiveness and high cost of locally produced rice.

Improved post harvest infrastructure aimed at improving storage, processing, transportation, marketing, distribution and consumption of local rice needs to be pursued. This project seeks to offer infrastructural support to stakeholders in the rice sector with the view to contributing to improving competitiveness of the quality to enhance income generation and national food security.

C. Potential Intervention zones and target groups

The project will target strategic locations in identified rice growing areas in the country where substantial quantities of paddy rice are produced. It will also target communities where some levels of rice processing and milling are undertaken as major income generating activities. The target groups will include farmers, rice processors (parboiling), millers, traders, private transport companies, district, municipal and metro assemblies and consumers.

D. Main objectives of the project

✓ Main objective

To develop strategic infrastructure for storage, processing, marketing and distribution of quality rice

Specific Objectives

a) To provide appropriate storage/warehousing facilities at strategic locations

In order to promote and sustain profitable quality rice production, it is essential to minimize postharvest losses and also improve the quality of rice for the market. There will also be the need to rehabilitate existing and construct new warehouses for storage of paddy and milled rice major rice producing and market centres. In pursuit of this investment government will collaborate with the private sector.

b) To provide threshing and drying patios for sustained production of quality rice.

Drying patios will be constructed (or polypropylene tarpaulins supplied to areas without patios) to facilitate threshing and drying of paddy and parboiled rice. Processing centres including mill houses, electricity and water will be provided to facilitate rice processing. The project will seek to develop a sustainable rice value chain by enhancing the capacities of all actors to adhere to strict quality control procedures through the formation of groups and associations. The associations will be offered training in the area of primary and secondary rice processing technologies (threshing, winnowing, drying, parboiling, milling and storage) and quality control standards.

c) To provide adequate access roads, water, electricity and communication facilities to rice producing and processing areas

To improve transportation and communication, farm tracks, rural road networks and major roads linking production areas to marketing centres will be rehabilitated. Collaboration with relevant MDAs and utility agencies will be enhanced to improve supply of utilities to rice growing areas.

d) To develop rice commodity markets at strategic locations across the country

Physical markets for farm produce are characterized by old infrastructure, lack of suitable commodity specific storage facilities, unhygienic premises and over-crowding. In addition, most stakeholders, including District Assemblies and traders, lack the capacity in marketing skills to effectively manage established markets. Other constraints limiting market access include inadequate product development and generally weak rice commodity value chain. The project will seek to facilitate the establishment of rice commodity markets and establish strong linkages between actors in the markets.

E. Description of the Components, Outputs and Activities

Components

A. Storage facilities/warehousing development

Output 1: Appropriate storage structures rehabilitated/constructed

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Feasibility study to identify strategic production areas and consumption centres
- ✓ Assessment of conditions and capacities of existing storage structures
- ✓ Zone and map producing/processing areas for equitable citing of storage structures
- ✓ Construct/ renovate storage structures
- ✓ Provide/acquire warehouse equipment (moisture metres, scales, fork lift, etc)
- ✓ Facilitate synergy between traders, MDAs and commercial private entities

Output 2: Capacity building

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Training in maintenance of storage structures
- ✓ Capacity building in warehouse management
- ✓ Capacity building in pests management
- ✓ Capacity building in standardization and packaging

B. Drying patios construction

Output 1: drying patios put up/rehabilitated

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Select relevant production areas and sites
- ✓ Assess conditions of existing patios
- ✓ Zone and map producing/processing areas for equitable citing of patios
- ✓ Construct/rehabilitate drying patios
- ✓ Provide / acquire polypropylene tarpaulins

C. Access Roads and utility services development

Output 1: Access roads constructed

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Establish linkages with MDAs and District, municipal and Metro Assemblies
- ✓ Identify, map out and cost potential farm tracts, feeder and trunk roads
- ✓ Evaluate and award contracts

Output 2: Utility services provided

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Establish linkages with MDAs and District, municipal and Metro Assemblies
- ✓ Identify, map out and cost potential utility services needed
- ✓ Evaluate and award contracts

D. Commodity market development

Output 1: Rice commodity market established

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Establish linkages with MDAs and District, municipal and Metro Assemblies
- ✓ Identify, map out and potential marker sites
- ✓ Negotiate with relevant agencies for funding
- ✓ Develop market structures
- ✓ Establish core teams to manage markets

Output 2: Rice value chain developed

Proposed Activities

- ✓ Undertake market feasibility studies to promote demand for local rice
- ✓ Sensitize actors along the rice value chain
- ✓ Identify, register and facilitate formation of VCAs
- ✓ Facilitate the linkage and collaboration of VCAs
- ✓ Build capacity of actors on GAPs, GHPs, GMPs

F. Costs and Financing

	Component	Cost (GHS)
A.	Storage facility/warehousing support	
B.	Construction of drying patios	
C.	Development of roads and utility services	
D.	Development of rice commodity markets	
	Total	

G. Implementation strategy of the Project

Project will organize an inception workshop to launch it. Thereafter, stakeholders will be identified to discuss the various components and guidelines for implementation. Groups will therefore be formed to discuss in detail activities to be carried out. Work plans and budgets will be developed and discussed and finalized and various stakeholders/partners will be assigned specific roles to play. An operational manual with a monitoring and evaluation system will be developed and to guide implementation.

A. Project organization and management

- Effective management system
 - ✓ Project inception workshop
 - ✓ Identify all project partners
 - ✓ Develop work plans and implementation strategies
 - ✓ Assign roles and responsibilities to partners
 - ✓ Periodic review and reporting of project activities

B. Monitoring and evaluation

- Effective monitoring and evaluation system
 - ✓ Coordinate and manage project
 - ✓ Periodic monitoring, evaluation and review of project activities
 - ✓ Periodic reports on activities carried out
 - ✓ Acquisition and supervise distribution of logistic support

C. Risks

- ✓ Timely availability of funds
- ✓ Political stability continue to prevail in the project implementation areas
- ✓ Favourable agro-climatic conditions prevail
- ✓ Commitment of project implementation partners
- ✓ The current government agricultural policy remains unchanged
- ✓ Good bilateral relations continue to exist between Ghana and development partners

D. Project factsheets

Narrative Summary	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks
<p>Goal</p> <p>To improve the quality, competitiveness and consumption of locally produced rice</p>	<p>Increased production, sale and consumption of local rice in Ghana by 50% by 2018</p>	<p>National statistical data, MoFA reports, rice import and export data</p>	<p>(a) Political stability continue to prevail in the project implementation areas</p> <p>(b) Favourable agro-climatic conditions prevail</p> <p>(c) Commitment of project implementation partners</p>
<p>Purpose: To provide equipment support and application of appropriate technology to enhance quality rice production and competitiveness</p>	<p>Availability of rice processing equipment</p> <p>Improvement in quality and quantity</p> <p>increase in sale and incomes of VCAs</p>	<p>National statistical data, MoFA reports, rice import and export data, Socio-economic study reports</p>	<p>(a) Favourable agro-climatic conditions prevail</p> <p>(b) availability of funds to procure equipment and raw material</p> <p>(c) VCAs adapt technologies</p>
<p>Equipment support</p> <p>Output 1: Quality of paddy produced enhanced</p> <p>Output 2: Standard rice mills installed and operating</p> <p>Output 3: Existing one-pass mills</p>			

improved Output 4: Equipment spare parts provided and mills maintained and operational Output 5: Quality of milled/ parboiled rice improved			

