

CONCEPT NOTE

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE SEED RICE QUALITY

A. Strategic Context of the Project and the Commitment of the Government and development Partners for Rice Sector Value Chain Development

Introduction

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture is the lead agency that directs the national agricultural policy. To carry out its function, plans and programmes are coordinated through policy and strategy frameworks. In this regard, MOFA facilitated the preparation of Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP II) and the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP). The FASDEP II states the long term policy objectives of Government in relation to the development of the agriculture sector, aimed at ensuring that the sector's stakeholders are best positioned to take advantage of the emerging opportunities.

Successive Governments have been committed to rural and agricultural development through various policy initiatives like:

- i) Presidential initiatives
- ii) Poverty reduction strategies
- iii) The Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)
- iv) Youth in Agriculture Programmes, to mention a few.

Strategic objectives

- i) Creation of employment in the rural areas
- ii) Minimisation of poverty in the rural areas
- iii) Minimisation of rural-urban migration
- iv) Improving living standards in the rural areas

Political and Historical Framework for the Rice Sector

Policy strategies over the years, as captured in FADEP I, GPRS I & II, MTADP, AAGDS and other MOFA policy documents, have sought to promote rice production to address food security and poverty reduction. Among others, varietal improvement of rice and seed production and utilisation are to be pursued vigorously. Seed rice infrastructural development is key to achieving the above objective.

Strategic Objectives of the Rice Sector

- i) Ensure increased and sustained domestic production of good quality rice for food security, import substitution and savings in foreign exchange.
- ii) Ensure efficient utilisation of all rice-growing ecologies.
- iii) Ensure efficiency within the rice value chain

B. Justification

Use of uncertified and adulterated seed rice makes it difficult for the farmer to have uniform crop stand in the short term and to establish acceptable brand names in the long term.

In spite of the laudable initiatives in the various rice development strategies, the use of poor quality seed makes it difficult to achieve the above strategic objectives, e.g.

- i) Locally produced rice becomes uncompetitive and unacceptable to the consumer
- ii) Farmers not using suitable rice varieties for the various rice-growing ecologies
- iii) Stakeholders in the rice value chain are unable to play their roles effectively

C. Potential Intervention Zones and Target Groups

The rainfed lowland ecology is dominant, covering over 78% of total area cropped to rice. The irrigated ecology covers 16% of total rice area while the upland area covers 6%. The rainfed lowland ecology is the most profitable for rice production, provided water management and cultural practices are improved. Ghana's strategy conforms to CARD's goal which targets this ecology for increased rice production. Current seed requirement is thus greater for the rainfed lowland ecology than the two other ecologies and thus requires greater infrastructural development for seed quality improvement.

D. Main Objectives of the Project

Global Objective

To double local rice production by the year 2018 so as to contribute to food security and increased income in rice production.

Specific Objectives

- i) Domestic production of rice will be increased by 10% annually using gender sensitive and productivity enhancing innovations for smallholders, commercial producers and entrepreneurs along the value chain. In order to achieve this, there would be need for good quality seed.
- ii) The consumption of local rice will be promoted through the provision of quality seed of varieties that are acceptable to consumers.

E. Description of Components, Output and Activities

| Components | Activities | Outputs |
|---|--|---|
| Provision of Seed Rice Drying and Cleaning Facilities | i. Construction of drying floors ii. Acquisition of appropriate machinery for post harvest handling of seed rice (e.g. dryers, seed cleaners and disinfectors) | Appropriate seed moisture content assured Clean and disease-free seeds assured |
| Provision of Cold Storage Facilities | i. Construction of 3 new seed storage facilities ii. Rehabilitation and upgrading of six existing seed storage facilities iii. Bidding for contractors to undertake provision of the above requirements. | Nine seed storage facilities operational country wide |

Post Harvest Handling of Seed Rice

Acquisition of appropriate machinery for post harvest handling of seed rice (e.g. winnowers and dryers)

Although suitable drying floors would enable effective drying of seed rice, the use of dryers would minimise the possibility of seeds getting moldy, particularly during the rainy season.

Construction and Rehabilitation of Cold Storage Facilities

The three new storage facilities will be located at the following places, across the country:

- i) Northern sector, at Tamale to serve the Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions.
- ii) Middle sector, at Kumasi, to serve the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Eastern Regions
- iii) Southern Sector, at Ho, to serve the Greater Accra and Volta Regions.

The existing facility at Winneba would serve the Central and Western Regions.

Six existing seed storage facilities e.g. the seed depot at Tamale would be rehabilitated and upgraded. These would include the replacement of obsolete equipment.

F. Cost and Financing

| Items/Activities | No. Required | Unit Cost (GHC) | Total cost (GH C) |
|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Provision of drying floors | 400 | 35,000 | 140,000,000 |
| Acquisition of: Mechanical dryers | 10 | | |
| Seed cleaners | 20 | | |
| Seed disinfectors | 20 | | |
| | | | |
| i. Construction of new seed storage facilities | 3 | | |
| ii. Rehabilitation and upgrading of existing seed storage facilities | 6 | | |
| iii. Bidding for contractors to undertake provision of the above requirements. | 1 | | |

G. Implementation Strategy of Project

1. Setting up of project implementation committee
2. Initial inspection of existing facilities
3. Assessment of requirements for rehabilitation and upgrading of old facilities
4. Acquisition of sites for construction of new facilities
5. Assessment of requirements for new facility and bidding

The facilities would be managed by the District/Regional Directors the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Partners in the implementation of project should be identified, based on roles that they would play in actualising the plans. The potential partners include:

1. The Ghana Rice Inter-professional Body (GRIB)
2. Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Programme (ADVANCE)
3. Japan International Cooperation (JICA)

GRIB champions the course of farmers and, of late, also facilitates seed production and distribution; ADVANCE is an NGO that gives credit support to farmers and JICA supports infrastructural development. Finally, Farmer-based organizations (FBOs) should be encouraged to be part of the process.

H. Project Organisation and Management

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture should coordinate the activities of the various stakeholders, through their Regional, Municipal and District Directors. This should be in conjunction with the project implementation committee.

I. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation would be undertaken by the coalition of the project committee and the Municipal/District assemblies. During implementation of the project, data, reports, physical checks and tracking will form the bases for developing of indicators.

K. Risks

- i) Non availability of project funds
- ii) Issues with land tenure
- iii) Out- grower farmers not accepting to grow recommended seed because of inadequate remuneration, and hence making the provided facilities underutilised.
- iv) Farmers may choose to obtain seed from their previous crop and, therefore, not patronising seed from the central warehouse.

K. Project Fact Sheet

Logical Framework

| Project/Programme | Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI) | Means of verification | Important assumptions/Risks |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1.Global objective: To double local rice production by the year 2018 so as to contribute to food security and increased income in rice production | Local rice production doubled by 2018 (i.e. increased to 1,500,000 t by 2018) | MOFA period statistics | Existence of favorable weather Farmers accept improved crop technologies |
| 2.Specific objectives: i. Domestic production of rice will be increased by 10% annually. In order to achieve this, there would be need for good quality seed. ii. The consumption of local rice will be promoted through the provision of quality seed of varieties that are acceptable to consumers. | Local rice production doubled by 2018 (i.e. increased to 1,500,000 t by 2018) Farmers accept to cultivate improved rice varieties that are acceptable to consumers | MOFA period statistics Reduced importation of rice | Existence of favorable weather Farmers accept improved crop technologies Local rice becomes competitive |
| 3.Output/Results Component 1 Appropriate seed moisture content assured Clean and disease-free seeds assured Component 2 Nine seed storage facilities operational countrywide | Moisture content of seed rice remains at 12% Seed borne diseases minimised Indicated number of functional seed storage facilities available | Sample measurements of grain moisture content Less plant diseases observed in the field Confirmation by project implementation team | Use of reliable grain moisture meters Enough qualified scientists to undertake studies Availability of project funding |