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Towards Implementation of National Rice Development Strategies of Mozambique

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SUMMARY

Rice is an important cereal food crop in Mozambique. Rice is mostly grown in areas where the population and the poverty levels are high. Thus rice sector represents an important element of food security and poverty alleviation in Mozambique. Increasing rice production can also substitute importation and minimize the pressure on foreign exchange. Rice is grown in about 200,000 Ha, mostly in lowland rain fed ecosystem. The current level of productivity of 1 t/Ha is considered to be very low. To meet the annual consumption demands of 550,000 t, the country currently imports about 350,000 t of rice.

To meet the demands of rice sector, and better harmonize and coordinate the various research and development activities along the rice value chain, Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) in collaboration with National rice development unit and other development partners has drawn National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) for Mozambique. The NRDS was endorsed by a task force and other stakeholders in 2010. The task force recently analyzed the main interventions that are required to boost rice production and productivity in Mozambique by taking a holistic approach on the rice value chain through a sub-sector wise intervention element matrix (SIEM).

After assessing the levels of interventions by the on-going rice related programs and projects, 16 interventions in 8 different areas that require immediate investments through the next funding cycle were prioritized. The taskforce here elaborates these 16 intervention topics as project concept notes by highlighting the goals, objectives, components, expected results, estimated budget and timeline, and potential sources of funding for further consideration.

Mechanization

9. Provision of equipments to increase productivity in small scale rice far
10. Facilitation of credit or grant to farmers and private sectors in farm mechanization

Quality Improvement

11. Improve quality and productivity of rice through the provision and dissemination of harvest and post harvest equipments
12. Strengthening of private sectors in rice value chain through facilitation of imports and local manufacturing of harvest- and post-harvest equipments

Access to Markets

13. Promotion of market competitiveness of locally produced rice
14. Promotion of packaging and branding of locally produced rice

Access to Credit

15. Credit scheme for rice development – Using a part of import tariff as a source of credit/guarantee/insurance scheme to rice farmers through service providers
16. Strengthening the linkage between credit for inputs and outputs along the rice value chain

List of proposed Concept Note titles on the prioritized intervention areas

Seed

1. Strengthening rice seed supply chain through sensitization and improved access to credit
2. Distribution of Certified Seeds through Voucher system to rice growers

Fertilizers

3. Distribution of Fertilizers through voucher system to rice farmers
4. Expansion of Fertilizer marketing network in rice growing areas through training of retailers and establishing linkage with agro-dealer network

Irrigation/Water Management: Infrastructure

5. Construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of irrigation structures in rice growing areas
6. Promotion of maintenance, responsibility and ownership of irrigation infrastructures at the grass root level

Irrigation/Water Management

7. Enabling of public-private partnerships in the provision of machinery rental service for use in levelling and bunding of rice fields
8. Facilitation of credit or grant to private sectors engaged in irrigation/water management

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) – an initiative spearheaded by JICA, NEPAD, AGRA, AfricaRice, AfDB, FAO, IFAD, IRRI, JIRCAS and World Bank

Goal & approach : *double rice production* in Sub-Saharan Africa (14 to 28 million tons) in 10 years through addressing the issues of

- (i) the whole rice value chain approach,
- (ii) the salient rice-growing agro-ecological zones,
- (iii) capacity building and
- (iv) South-south cooperation

Objectives:

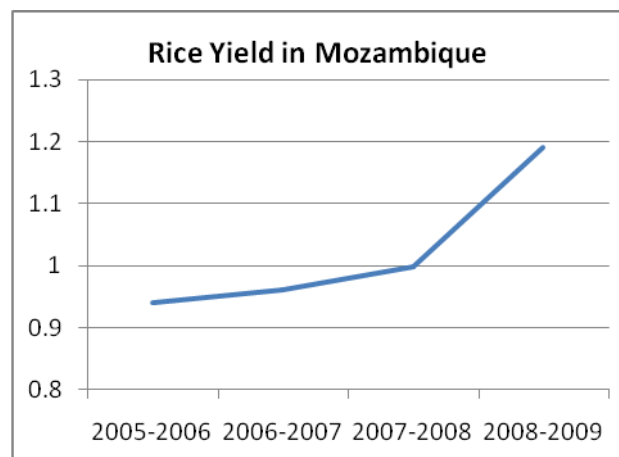
rationalize and increase investment
develop capacities of governments to secure government funding/
donor investment,
provide enabling environment for rice-related investments and
coordinate interventions through NRDS

The 23 African countries are currently members of CARD are split in two groups;

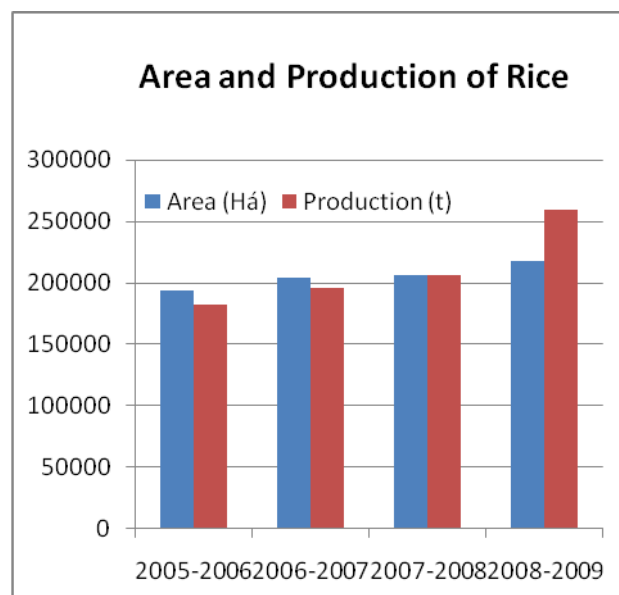
Group 1: Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, **Mozambique**, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda

Group 2: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, DRC, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia

Current Productivity levels of rice in Mozambique:



Trends in rice cultivation (Ha) and production (t) in Mozambique:



Sl. No	Project Title	Estimated Budget (USD)	% of Total
1	Strengthening rice seed supply chain through sensitization and improved access to credit	150,000	0.02
2	Distribution of Certified Seeds through Voucher system to rice growers	22,500,000	3.66
3	Distribution of Fertilizers through voucher system to rice farmers	7,800,000	1.27
4	Expansion of Fertilizer marketing network in rice growing areas through training of retailers and establishing linkage with agro-dealer network	800,000	0.13
5	Construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of irrigation structures in rice growing areas	560,000,000	91.00
6	Promotion of maintenance, responsibility and ownership of irrigation infrastructures at the grass root level	5,600,000	0.91
7	Enabling of public-private partnerships in the provision of machinery rental service for use in levelling and bunding of rice fields	110,000	0.02
8	Facilitation of credit or grant to private sectors engaged in irrigation/water management	600,000	0.10
9	Provision of equipments to increase productivity in small scale rice farms	12,000,000	1.95
10	Facilitation of credit or grant to farmers and private sectors in farm mechanization	200,000	0.03
11	Improve quality and productivity of rice through the provision and dissemination of harvest and post harvest equipments	2,300,000	0.37
12	Strengthening of private sectors in rice value chain through facilitation of imports and local manufacturing of harvest- and post-harvest equipments	300,000	0.05
13	Promotion of market competitiveness of locally produced rice	660,000	0.11
14	Promotion of packaging and branding of locally produced rice	260,000	0.04
15	Credit scheme for rice development – Using a part of import tariff as a source of credit/guarantee/insurance scheme to rice farmers through service providers	1,250,000	0.20
16	Strengthening the linkage between credit for inputs and outputs along the rice value chain	825,000	0.13
	Total	615,355,000	

Role of private sector in developing rice value chain in Mozambique

The involvement of private sector in rice value chain is scarce and unable to fully realize the potential of the country's rice sector

Given the new thrust to the rice sector, private investments in rice value chain stand to tap benefits through service provision and milling

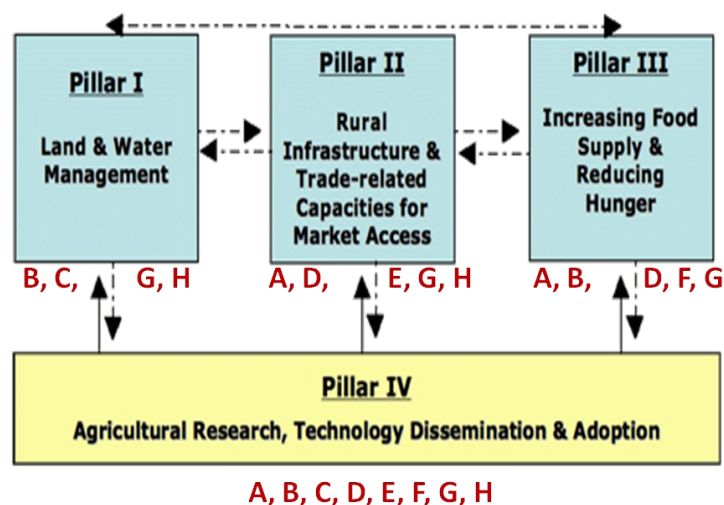
The strategies defined in NRDS document specify the need for medium and large scale investments along the entire rice value chain

- Seed supply
- Fertilizer distribution
- Irrigation structures
- Farm machineries
- Post harvest handling
- Milling
- Credit

Sub-sector/ Areas	Components
A. Input availability	Improve access and use of improved seed varieties and other inputs, to overcome cost problems. Better and more affordable access to credit.
B. Agronomy	Improve crop management, pest protection, weed management and land preparation
C. Irrigation and water management	Rehabilitation of existing irrigation and irrigation expansion, with emphasis on human capacity building. Development of newly irrigated areas, ownership, maintenance and responsibility of user associations.
D. Post harvest handling	Enhance availability of pre and post-harvesting equipment, storage practises, improved milling standards and access, rice grading, packaging, branding
E. Marketing	Promotion of required marketing infrastructure, market access, feeder roads, trading network, competitiveness of locally produced rice, quality promotion
F. Utilization	Promotion of utilization of rice products and by-products within rural communities
G. Extension	Strengthening the extension services for rice to rural farmers, developing farmer agronomy knowledge, training, demonstrations
H. Investment	Wider awareness creation for expanded investment on seed multiplication, irrigation, pre and post-harvest, alongside investment in human capacity all along the value chain

Coherence of NRDS with Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP):

CAADP – Fostering Growth in African Agriculture



Pillars of NRDS

A. Input availability
B. Agronomy
C. Irrigation and Water management
D. Post harvest handling
E. Marketing
F. Utilization
G. Extension
H. Investment

Alignment of NRDS with National Strategies and Policies:

Areas with a high potential of rice production currently have high levels of poverty, therefore developing the rice sector can have a significant impact in reducing the levels of poverty in Mozambique

Rice is identified as one of the major cereal crops in achieving the national strategic objectives on poverty reduction and agricultural growth

The PEDSA identifies agriculture as a main focus of poverty reduction in Mozambique and places high priority on agricultural growth and food security

The NRDS aligns with the four pillars of the PEDSA, namely:

- Increasing agricultural productivity
- Access to markets
- Management of natural resources
- Institutional capacity building