

## Proposed Priority Interventions

The priority areas of proposed intervention in the NRDS are as follow:

### 1. Development of infrastructure for access to markets

- To rehabilitate and construct feeder roads to link major rice production areas to markets, and to enhance movement to inputs and services.

### 2. Development of infrastructure for quality improvement

- To promote value addition and commercialization through rehabilitation and construction of drying floors and stores, and establishment of milling stations.

### 3. Rehabilitation and Development of Inland Valley Swamps

- To boost rice production in the lowlands, by increasing area under rice cultivation and then increasing productivity to generate marketable surplus and enhance commercialization.

### 4. Support to Farmer Based Organizations in the form of Capacity Building

- To increasing rice production and productivity by enhancing adoption of improved technologies and maximizing use of inputs. Training will be conducted in leadership and good governance, Agribusiness and management, and agronomic practices.

### 5. Provision of Inputs to Farmer Based Organizations.

- To intensify rice productivity and production, through provision of seeds and agro-chemicals to FBOs.

### 6. Provision of Farm Mechanization to FBOs

- To increase area under rice cultivation and promote commercial rice production and promote private sector investment in the rice subsector. This will be achieved through provision of farm machinery to functional service depots, support to service depots and capacity building.

### 7. Support to Seed Regulatory Bodies

- To increase productivity through use of high quality seeds, and to establish and operationalize a seed secretariat. This will be done through establishment of functional seed quality control facilities, upgrading of phytosanitary border posts, and capacity building of phytosanitary and pest management personnel.

### 8. Human Resource Development

- To strengthen the capacities of Research and Extension Services. This will be done through training and provision of logistic support to research and extension institutions.

# Sierra Leone

## NATIONAL RICE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NRDS)



Sierra Leone  
Agricultural Research  
Institute (SLARI)

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
& Food Security (MAFFS)

## Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

The Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) initiative was launched at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in 2008 and spearheaded by JICA, NEPAD, AGRA. In addition to the three mentioned, core partners include research agencies and regional/international financial institutions, i.e. AfricaRice, AFDB, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JIRCAS and World Bank.

The goal is to double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa from 14 to 28 millions 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.

The objectives of CARD are : (i) rationalize and increase investment for rice sector development mainly through existing funding frameworks, (ii) develop capacities of governments to effectively manage rice sector development as well as to secure government funding / donor investment, (iii) provide enabling environment for rice-related investment both for development agencies and governments and (iv) better coordinate interventions based on the shared view on rice development through NRDS which has to be in line with overarching development frameworks (GPRS II, CAADP, ECOWAP, METASIP, GSAG, etc). Currently, CARD supports the following 23 Sub-Saharan African countries:

- First group countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya Madagascar, Mali,

Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, **Sierra Leone**, Tanzania and Uganda and

-Second group countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia.

## The Rice Subsector in Sierra Leone

Rice is the staple of Sierra Leoneans. Annual per capita consumption of rice (104 kg) is amongst the highest in sub Saharan Africa. Mainly small scale farmers on both the upland and diverse lowland ecologies grow it. Sierra Leone has not been able to produce enough rice to meet its local consumption demand for a very long time now. Sierra Leone requires about 530,000 mt of milled rice to meet the consumption needs of the population annually. National Paddy Rice Production was projected at 638,000mt in 2007. The level of rice self-sufficiency rose from 57.45 percent in 2002, to 69 percent in 2005 and then to 71 percent in 2007. The remainder must be imported at increasingly expensive prices in the current situation of high prices for food including rice. International nominal prices of all major food commodities reached, in the first three months of 2008. The price of rice, the main staple food in Sierra Leone has seen a steady increase by more than 50% on average in the entire country. Most affected by this recent food price inflation, are the low-income urban and peri-urban households and smallholder food deficit. Female and elderly headed households are the most destitute. The promotion of domestic rice production is therefore a key element in the strategies for improving food security, stimulate economic growth and increase rural income. Efforts to support rice production programmes is the only solution to pull the country out of the worsening rice situation and reverse the present declining trend in food self-sufficiency.

The goal of the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) is to lay out a framework for significant increases in rice production in order to contribute to the improvement of food security and economic development in Sierra Leone. The specific objectives are to:

1. Ensure an increase in the sustainable productivity and production of rice in Sierra Leone
2. Promote appropriate post harvest handling, processing and marketing of rice
3. Develop appropriate infrastructure for rice production and marketing
4. Improve the capacity of stakeholders and institutions involved in rice sector

The strategy for increasing rice production is two pronged: (a) increase in area cultivated, mainly in the lowlands where there is much underutilized capacity, and (b) increases in productivity per unit area in all ecosystems.

These priorities are well articulated in the Government's National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan – the Smallholder Commercialization Programme. The SCP aims to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity on a sustainable basis, and to strengthen the national economy. In line with the SCP objectives, the NRDS seeks among other things

- To promote commercialization of smallholder agriculture through increasing productivity, intensification, value addition, post-harvest

*A strategy for food security and commercialization*

infrastructure, and marketing with emphasis on

commodity chain development and institutional strengthening to build self-reliance of farmer-based organizations (FBO).

- To develop appropriate small scale irrigation infrastructure in order to boost rice production, a main staple in the country, leading to increased food security, market surplus particularly for lowland smallholders, and the creation of wealth and employment notably for youth.
- To improve access to markets through the rehabilitation and effective maintenance of priority feeder roads, generating smallholder commercialization.