

South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa

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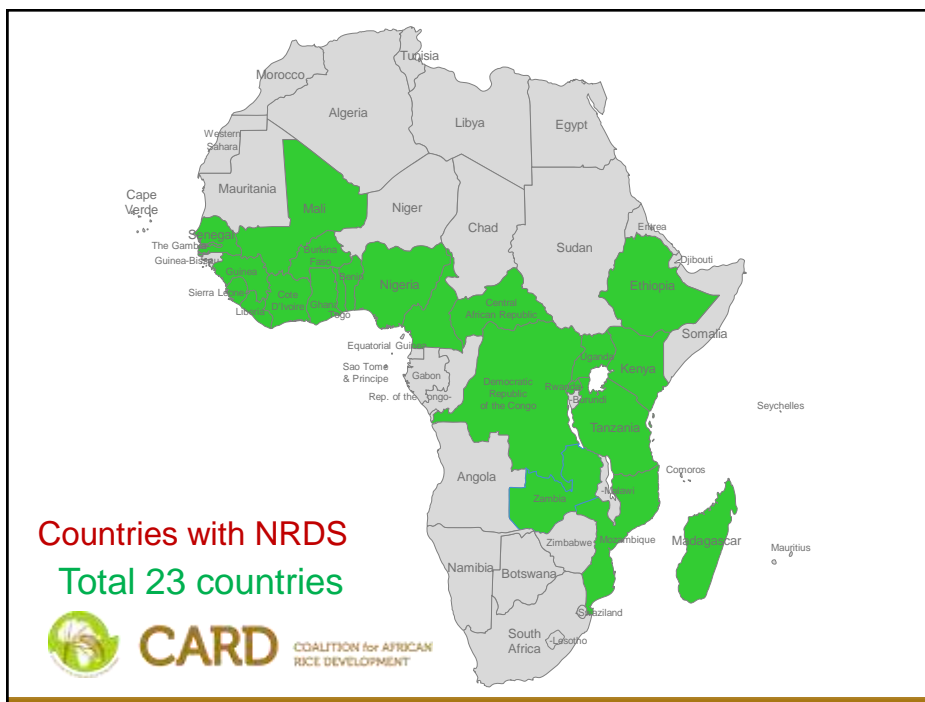
Rationale

- Rice is an increasingly important staple commodity and a cash crop in Africa for which excess demand is leading to increased importations
- It is cultivated in 38 sub-Saharan African countries under diverse ecosystems and a wide variety of climatic and soil conditions (rain-fed lowland, irrigated low land, mangrove swamp, upland, etc)
- Despite its great potential Africa produces only about 4% of the world's total rice
- CARD was launched with the aim of doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa from 14 to 28 million tons within 10 years



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Rationale

- Reaching the target of doubling rice production in just 10 years will not be possible without the application of new yield enhancing and improved post harvest handling and processing technologies
- Africa could develop such technologies for itself but that would take considerably longer than 10 years
- Africa should take advantage of coming from behind to acquire the knowledge, skills and technologies that have already been developed in other parts of the world

South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa Rationale

Africa would gain a lot if the proven technologies, technical knowhow and ability to make changes could be passed from country to country

This will be mutually beneficial because there is a growing global shortage that is threatening to raise the price of this essential staple food, which would be especially harmful to poorer consumers

This project will spearhead south-south collaboration in technology exchange, transfer of technical knowhow, and strengthening capacity for change of rice value chain actors

It will improve the productivity and profitability of smallholder rice producers, processors and input suppliers and maintenance providers particularly of tractors, tillage, planting, irrigation, cultivation, post harvest handling, storage and processing equipments and also of planners and policy makers



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South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa Rationale

African countries have been motivated to join CARD to be able to benefit from learning and sharing experiences with each other

In view of the common interest in increasing global rice supplies non-African countries such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and others have expressed willingness to share their knowledge and appropriate technologies with their African peers

This is also true of other crops and agricultural commodities

Up to the present, relative to the potential benefits, there have been too few such exchanges because they are difficult to arrange and expensive in overheads when organized individually



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South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa Proposal

FARA as a central continental organisation will be equipped to interact with:

- the CARD Secretariat on CARD priorities for South-South collaboration
- with AfricaRice and IRRI to match African interests in accessing new technologies, acquiring technical knowhow and the skills and tools for resolving problems and implementing change
- with southern country capacities in these areas
- to facilitate south-south collaboration in ways that will achieve the greatest impact with the scarce available resources



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South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa Actions

A consultant will work with the evolving NRDS Task Forces and other key actors to identify the deficiencies in technology transfer, technical knowledge and rice value chain actors' capacities for change that could be effectively addressed through south-south exchanges

This will be conducted through a combination of a desk study of the NRDS taking advantage of the sector matrices which are available for all NRDS countries, e-conferencing and site visits

The information from the NRDS task forces will be used to organise groups of African rice value chain actors for south-south collaborative activities in numbers and locations in which they would benefit most from the collaborations



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South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa **Actions**

Stock will be taken of what southern partners have to offer for technology transfer, improving technical knowhow and strengthening African rice value chain actors' capacities for change match findings to the priority African demands for south-south exchanges

This will include exchange events that will optimise between what is demanded with what can be provided to achieve maximum impact in improved productivity in the African rice value chains

The activities will be incremental and not duplicative of south-south activities that are already under way as for instance between PhilRice and AfricaRice in post-harvest technologies

There will training of trainers to ensure that there will be endogenous capacity for as much of the follow up reinforcing events as possible



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South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa **Actions**

The visits will be to Asian institutions by representatives of African collaborators to assess the goodness of fit between what is demanded and what is offered

The participants for the visits will be selected by the NRDS Task Forces from amongst stakeholders who are expected to participate directly in the collaboration and who have the greatest vested interest in the success of the collaboration

A study tour will be undertaken to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia by rice technologists and policy makers from African rice growing countries from 7 first group CARD countries

A similar tour will be conducted to Egypt



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Actions

The aim of the visits is to:

- Gain a better understanding of how to develop and structure a rice industry both for local consumption and export purposes
- View and experience first hand appropriate technologies that may be appropriate to rice production in African countries
- Develop linkages with machinery and technology manufacturers and dealerships
- Develop linkages with institutes and associations that may help build human capacity and support the rice industry in Africa



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Actions

The south-south exchanges will be followed up with reinforcing activities to ensure that the information and techniques that have been exchanged can be implemented by the beneficiaries in their day to day occupations

Local providers will be used wherever possible

A tracer study of the African participants in the south-south exchanges will be conducted to firstly detect requirements for follow up activities and secondly to report on the outcomes of the exchanges in terms of uptake of the topics of the exchanges



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South-South Cooperation for Scaling Up Rice Value Chains Development in Africa **Conclusion**

The project will be bound by the following principles:

The activities have to be incentive based so that all parties involved will be truly committed

The south-south collaborative events will be implemented on multi-stakeholder and multi-country platforms that will maximise the impact of the capacity strengthened of the technology exchanged

The initial events will be underpinned by strategic follow up exchanges designed to be appropriate to the particular topic and to address problems and issues that are bound to emerge when the trainees try to implement what they have been taught

The project completion report will include a funding proposals for an expanded exchange programme for rice and other crops and commodities



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Thank you



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