

(For consideration at the CARD Third General Meeting)

Support of Additional Sub-Sahara African Countries on Formulation and Implementation of the National Rice Development Strategies

1. Justification

The Third CARD Steering Committee (Accra, Ghana, 25 – 26 November 2009) discussed addition of countries to enter into the process of formulation and implementation of the National Rice Development Strategies. Based on such criteria as potential for rice production, readiness of CARD Supporting Partners on providing assistance both in the rice-sector development and the implementation of NRDS, and geographical balance, the said meeting agreed to invite the following 11 countries for formulation process of the National Rice Development Strategies.

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Central African Republic
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Republic of the Gambia
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Rwanda
- Togolese Republic
- Republic of Zambia

The letter sent in December 2009 invited the Ministers of the most relevant ministry in each country to submit the list of NRDS Task Force members (deadline 31 January 2010) and the zero draft NRDS (deadline 31 March 2010). As in Table 1, Benin, Burkina Faso, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia have submitted the list the Task Force members to date. In the meanwhile the zero drafts were received by six countries, namely Burkina Faso, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Togo and Zambia. With regards to DR Congo, the Secretariat has been informed that the country is in the process of appointing the Task Force members though the list has not been received yet.

The Fourth CARD Steering Committee, held in Arusha, Tanzania on 17 May 2010, concluded that Benin, Burkina Faso, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia have shown sufficient political commitment for rice sector development and readiness on accepting assistance. The conclusion on DR Congo will be made at a later date as appropriate.

Table 1: Updates of the invited countries (as of 7 May)

	Task Force List	Zero Draft	Remarks
Benin	Submitted (23 Feb)		
Burkina Faso	Submitted (10 Feb)	Submitted (30 Mar)	
CAR	Submitted (30 Mar)	Submitted (30 Mar)	
Cote d'Ivoire	Submitted (12 Feb)	Submitted (12 Feb)	NRDS already validated
DR Congo			Task Force internally appointed
Ethiopia	Submitted (15 Feb)	Submitted (30 Mar)	
Gambia	Submitted (10 Mar)		
Liberia	Submitted (27 Jan)		
Rwanda	Submitted (9 Apr)	Submitted (6 May)	
Togo	Submitted (4 Feb)	Submitted (23 Mar)	
Zambia	Submitted (12 Feb)	Submitted (30 Mar)	

2. Proposal

The Steering Committee members of the Coalition propose that:

- The Coalition commence the technical support for formulation and implementation of the National Rice Development Strategies of Benin, Burkina Faso, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia, according to the process of formulation and the mode of assistance described in the remainder of this document, and;
- The Coalition suspend the decision on DR Congo until the date of the Regional Workshop for NRDS Formulation Support.

3. Outline of the formulation process

- **Zero draft.** The main task during the pre-workshop, already completed by some countries, will be data collection followed by data analysis and preliminary write-up of the strategy according to the format provided.
- **Regional Workshop.** One NRDS Workshop will take place in July 2009 (tentative). The event will be participated by two task force members from each country, resource persons, consultants and facilitators. The workshop will last four days and consist of: sharing the progress, achievements and constraints of each country (Day 1); continuation of write-up with detailed guidance (Days 2 and 3), and; action plan for the post-workshop phase (Day 4).
- **Consolidation and validation of NRDS Version One.** According to the above-mentioned action plan, the Task Force will complete the strategy paper. In doing so, the Task Force shall make sure that the consolidated document has undergone the consultation with the key development partners as well as stakeholders in the country. It is highly recommended NRDS Version One be validated after the above procedures.

Technical assistance, either by JICA experts or consultants, may be provided on-demand. However it is noted that the degree of the assistance should be such that the country ownership is ensured.

4. Tentative schedule

The suggested timetable is shown as below.

Table 2: Suggested timetable

Time	Event / task
January 2010	Appointment of NRDS Task Force
	Preparation of Zero Draft
July '10	Regional Workshop for NRDS Formulation Support
July '10 –	Post-workshop process <i>- Technical assistance (where requested)</i> <i>- Consultation with in-country development partners</i> <i>- Consultation within the government</i>
August '10 –	Submission of NRDS Version One
	Validation and Launching

5. Assistance by the Coalition

- **Technical contribution by Supporting Partners.** AfricaRice, FARA, IRRI, JICA and JIRCAS jointly prepare the NRDS format, provide technical inputs at the occasion of the regional workshop, and analyze and synthesize the strategy papers at the regional level. Other partners are invited to provide assistance, particularly in the area of post-harvest issues (quality and marketing).
- **Logistic contribution by Supporting Partners.** AfricaRice monitors the process of CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Togo. JICA monitors the process of Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda and Zambia.
- **CARD Secretariat.** The Secretariat will make necessary arrangements to facilitate the above-mentioned activities.