

Updates of the CARD Initiative

1. First Group countries

- General overview
 - ‘Working Week’ conducted (Sep ’10 – Feb ’11)
 - Updating and detailed analysis of needs-resources gap, identification of priority intervention topics (outputs) for the immediate round of funding by SSA governments, development partners and through CAADP
 - Detailed actions being identified to involve key institutions and players (‘champions’) to achieve ‘operationalization’ of interventions identified as above (based on IFAD-funded studies)
 - In-country dialogue between NRDS Task Force and CAADP Country Team arranged in some countries
- By countries

Cameroon *11-15 Oct	One of the most advanced with quality outcomes
Ghana *6-10 Dec	‘Final launching’ of NRDS in August 2010 with recognition of wider stakeholders (through FAO national workshop).
Guinea *21-25 Dec	Difficult to access but satisfactory progress thanks to the NRDS focal point.
Kenya **see note	Excessive emphasis on research due to the membership of TF. Composition of TF members remains an issue.
Madagascar *16-23 Sep	One of the most advanced with quality outcomes.
Mali **see note	Though NRDS not yet officially launched due to coordination problems and change of TF focal point, practical progress has been made.
Mozambique *31 Jan – 4 Feb	Government coordination improving with establishment of Minister-led National Rice Technical Committee.
Nigeria *6-10 Dec	Advanced progress in the CARD process with strong government initiatives on rice development.
Senegal *6-10 Dec	Satisfactory progress with better membership of TF.
Sierra Leone *7-11 Feb	Facing problems in terms of coordination with the in-country CAADP frame work and also poor capacity of TF.
Tanzania *22-26 Nov	Satisfactory progress while coordination with ASDP and CAADP remain an issue.
Uganda ** see note	Satisfactory progress.

* Dates of Working Week.

**The work was done over a long period with the assistance of local JICA experts.

2. Second Group countries

- General Overview
 - Officially approved as the CARD Second Group countries at the GM3 (May 2010)
 - Expert consultation and peer review of NRDS zero draft at the regional workshop at Africa Rice Centre, Benin (July 2010)
 - Post-workshop procedures going on with varied degree of progress in finalization of NRDS version one from a country to another.
- By countries

Benin	Satisfactory progress. A dispatched consultant assisted TF to finalize NRDS in October 2010. Expected to launch end-Feb '11.
Burkina Faso	Good progress. Expected to launch end-Feb '11.
Côte D'Ivoire	Satisfactory progress. NRDS Version One completed in July. Validation Workshop pending due to the aftermath of the presidential election
Central African Republic	Satisfactory progress. A consultant dispatched on 5-13 November to assist TF to finalize NRDS.
DR Congo	Delayed. Some financial problems to undertake the preliminary work including basic statistics. A mission expected in April.
Ethiopia	Satisfactory progress. NRDS Version One developed which is being implemented. IFAD study conducted.
The Gambia	The process stalled due to some institutional issues.
Liberia	NRDS Zero draft submitted in 2009. Currently under review. Consultant support early-Feb '11.
Rwanda	Good progress. NRDS Zero draft revised in May 2010. Consultant support in Oct '11. Due to launch in Mar '11.
Togo	Satisfactory progress. National Validation Workshop held in October and NRDS Version One submitted. Launched on 19 Nov.
Zambia	Delayed after NRDS Zero draft submitted in Mar '10.

3. Alignment with CAADP

- Dialogue started between CARD Secretariat and NPCA (NEPAD)
- In-country exchange between the NRDS Task Force and CAADP country team started / is to start in the First Group countries
- Matching of frameworks of CAADP and NRDS

4. South-south cooperation

- Study being conducted through IFAD Small Grant, with slow progress (to be discussed in Agenda 4)

5. Third CARD General Meeting (18 – 19 May 2010, Arusha, Tanzania)

- About 130 participants from 19 partner organizations / institutions (including AGRA and BMGF), five non-sub-Saharan African countries as South-South Cooperation partners and 12 CARD First Group countries, together with 9 Second Group countries
- Salient conclusions
 - Progress made in the NRDS implementation of the First Group countries
 - Inclusion of the CARD Second Group countries approved
 - While increased dialogue among development partners for coordinated intervention is appreciated, more dialogue is sought after
 - More effort on facilitating south-south cooperation called for
 - The next step should focus on operationalizing priority interventions identified by the NRDS process

6. Meetings attended

- FAO Regional Workshop Round 3 East and South Africa (January 2010, Dar, Tanzania)
 - Presentation on the progress in NRDS formulation / implementation by CARD countries
- Africa Rice Congress (March 2010, Bamako, Mali)
- GRiSP write-up workshop (April 2010, Los Banos, Philippines)
 - Appealing CARD's position to bring applicable research results to the field
- Africa Green Revolution Forum (September 2010, Accra, Ghana)
- FAO National Workshop in Madagascar (October 2010, Antsirabe, Madagascar)
- International Rice Policy and Investment Conference at International Rice Congress (November 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam)
 - Presentation on the rice sector development plans in 23 SSA countries
- FAO Regional Workshop Round 4 West Africa (December 2010, Dakar, Senegal)
 - Presentation on the progress in NRDS formulation / implementation by CARD countries

7. Webpage www.riceforafrica.org/

- 11 G2-countries' pages expanded in addition to update of pages of 12 G1-countries as well as 11 Steering Committee members – resulting in 14 NRDS documents, over 505 project profiles and 34 Sub-sector Intervention Element Matrices (SIEM).
- The reports and the meeting documents of the General Meetings and the Regional workshops were uploaded together with IFAD-funded Studies on Mapping of PRSPs, Sector Strategies and Policies related to Rice Development.
- More than 152 news articles on rice were archived and the first quarterly CARD newsletter was published in December 2010.