



## **MEETING REPORT**

**THE FIFTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN RICE DEVELOPMENT**

**FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE  
23–24 FEBRUARY 2011**

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## Executive Summary

1. The CARD Fifth Steering Committee meeting was held from 23-24 February 2011 in Freetown, Sierra Leone, under the co-chairmanship of Professor Dr Monty Jones, Executive Director of FARA, Mr Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President of JICA, and Dr Namanga Ngongi, the Director of the CARD Secretariat and the President of AGRA.
2. The meeting was well attended by the Steering Committee members, namely the AfDB, AfricaRice, AGRA, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS and the World Bank. NEPAD/NPCA sent an apology for its absence. USAID participated in the meeting as an observer, while Prof. Dr Vo-Tong Xuan, of Tan Tao University, Vietnam, participated as a guest speaker and contributed to the discussions on South-South Cooperation.
3. Opening remarks to the meeting were delivered by the Hon. Vice President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Samuel Sam-Sumana on behalf of H.E. the President, Ernest Bai Koroma, and by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture, Dr Joseph Sam Sesay. Both assured the meeting in turn of their strong high-level commitment to rice development in Sierra Leone and expressed their appreciation and high expectations of CARD. Each co-chair also made opening remarks to the gathering.

The major discussions during the meeting were as follows:

4. **Progress of the CARD Initiative:** the progress of the CARD initiative in 2010 was presented by the Secretariat.
5. **First Group (G1) countries:** the results of the gap analysis conducted by 12 G1 countries and their identification of the priority intervention areas were presented and commended by the meeting; showing that these priorities concentrated heavily on infrastructure and subsidies/provisions along the value chain. SC members were encouraged to take into account their comparative advantages and to consider addressing these identified priority intervention areas during the next project formulation cycle and planning process. The comprehensive methodology of the analysis was praised and a recommendation made that the matrices of the identified priority intervention areas should be regularly (e.g. biannually) updated. To this end, SC members were requested to communicate with their country offices to ensure the provision of information to National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) Taskforces.
6. **Second Group (G2) countries:** eleven G2 countries, with varying degrees of progress to date, will pursue these processes after the finalisation of their NRDS.
7. **Alignment of CARD/NRDS with CAADP:** the achievements in strengthening the alignment of CARD/NRDS with the CAADP both at the country level and at the SC level (i.e. between NEPAD/NPCA and the CARD Secretariat) were also shared. In some of the 12 First Group countries, the priority intervention areas identified by the NRDS Taskforce were shared and discussed with the CAADP country focal points in order to strengthen the institutional linkages on both sides. Assurances were again given that the outcomes and framework of the NRDS were compatible with and would be incorporated in the CAADP National Agricultural Investment Plan by providing necessary concrete action on the ground.
8. **Updates by SC members:** updates on the activities and initiatives carried out by all the SC members were shared, including:

- *CAADP (FARA and NEPAD-PCA)*. Investment Plan ready in 19 countries (of which 16 are CARD countries). Intend to support member states in implementing those CARD initiatives specifically supporting value-added processing, quality management, packaging, finance and regional trade.
  - *Global Rice Science Programme (GRiSP)*. Approved in November 2010. The AfDB is to support a research for development grant focusing on themes 3 and 6 of GRiSP in Africa, with a special focus on value-chain development (US\$ 15m for five years).
  - *Africa Rice Initiative (AfDB, AfricaRice)*. The Second Phase starts in 18 countries with more emphasis on value-chain issues. This will be a purely loan-based project, and support provided by AfricaRice will be through the new research for development grant.
  - *PHRD (World Bank)*. Scheduled for approval by the WB Board in March 2011. Resources for Madagascar (US\$ 10m, subject to improvement in the internal political situation) might be diverted to Rwanda.
  - *AGRA*. Progress with the Bread Basket Project in Ghana, Mali, Mozambique and Tanzania. Operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone authorized.
  - *IRRI*. The rice breeding programme focusing on South East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (part of PHRD, in collaboration with AfricaRice) started last year.
  - *AfricaRice, FAO, JICA, JIRCAS*. Updates of their activities.
9. **South-South cooperation:** Prof. Vo-Tong Xuan, Rector of Tan Tao University and Chairman & CEO, VAADCO (Vietnam Africa Agricultural Development Co. Ltd.) presented the case study of the South-South Cooperation in Rice Production between Vietnam and Some African Countries. The meeting was also informed about the planning and progress of the study tour to be facilitated by FARA and implemented by IRRI/AfricaRice with funding from IFAD, and about the triangular cooperation involving JICA and Embrapa, Brazil in Mozambique, as well as the training of researchers and extension officers in IRRI and PhilRice to be implemented by IRRI and funded by JICA. An update was presented by the Secretariat on the stocktaking exercise of South-South Cooperation, and assistance from AfricaRice, IRRI and JIRCAS was requested.
  10. **Fourth General Meeting and the Sixth Steering Committee:** a draft concept note on the GM4 was proposed by the Secretariat and met with general approval. SC members will be consulted before the proposed dates for GM4 in November 2011 are confirmed.
  11. The necessity of the Coalition's expansion into the private sector, as well as working more closely in SSA with other key development partners such as China and Korea, was strongly recognised by the meeting. JICA was already conducting dialogues with China in several strategic areas, including rice development cooperation in Africa. It was recommended that the Secretariat should consider organising a joint seminar or a side-event alongside the next Fourth General Meeting (GM4) or other relevant conferences. It was reported that the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) was highly positive towards the Coalition and the meeting unanimously recommended the Secretariat to extend an invitation to KOICA.
  12. **Rice (agriculture) statistics:** AfricaRice presented the results of the Emergency Rice Initiative funded by the Government of Japan to strengthen seed multiplication and the collection of data related to the rice statistics of Sub-Saharan African countries. As well as commending this effort, the SC members called strongly for further continuing endeavours along similar lines.

13. **CARD Initiative Plan 2011:** the Secretariat presented the proposed Plan 2011 for consideration and comments by SC members, who highlighted expansion of the partnership with the private sector and the newly emerging donors such as China and Korea.
14. SC members were requested (i) to submit one-page briefs to the Secretariat containing updates in accordance with the format prepared by the Secretariat, and (ii) to urge country offices to provide information on their projects/programmes to the NRDS Taskforce and to the Secretariat for analysis (by Dr Ngongi, AGRA)
15. It was strongly recommended that the Secretariat should (i) continue on a regular basis to refine the gap analysis and priority intervention areas across the SIEM, and make the results available on the website, and (ii) conduct some research work on examples of good practices, particularly relating to value-chain issues, specifically post-harvest handling, with the support of the SC members such as USAID and AGRA.



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THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN RICE DEVELOPMENT  
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE 23–24 FEBRUARY 2011**

**MEETING REPORT**

**1. Opening**

The Fifth Steering Committee meeting was opened by the Master of Ceremonies, Dr Namanga Ngongi, the Director of the CARD Secretariat and the President of AGRA. Opening remarks were made by Mr Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President of JICA; the Hon. Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Sahr Samuel Sam-Sumana, on behalf of H.E. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; the Hon. Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr Joseph Sam Sesay; and Professor Dr Monty Jones, Executive Director of FARA.

Mr Oshima, Senior Vice President of JICA, welcomed the participants, including representatives of USAID as observers, following on from the bilateral high-level dialogue between Dr Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, and Madam Sadako Ogata, the JICA President. He also made special mention of the guest speaker Prof. Vo-Tong Xuan, Rector of Tan Tao University, Ho Chi Minh City and Chairman and CEO, VAADCO (Vietnam Africa Agricultural Development Co. Ltd., who is known as 'Dr Rice' and the 'the Father of Rice' in Vietnam.

Dr Joseph Sam Sesay, the Hon. Minister for Agriculture, stressed the importance of rice to Sierra Leone, by highlighting several of its roles such as staple food for people, its political nature, its economic contribution and related implications (i.e. forming more than 60% of the Agriculture GDP, and costing about US\$ 50 million for annual rice importations). Rice was identified as the number one item through analysis of the Social Account Matrix, through contributing to 7% annual growth under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). He also addressed the change in Sierra Leone's Agricultural Policy – not only focusing on production but also covering other areas of the value chain, such as processing, infrastructure/distribution, marketing and so on. In order to assist farmers to produce more than their consumption and to promote smallholder commercialisation, a 20-year National Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme had been developed. Divided into four phases from 2010 to 2014, the Smallholders Commercial Programme was now being implemented for the achievement of Millennium

Development Goals.

On a proposal from Dr Ngongi, the agenda was adopted and the chairmanship of the meeting allocated to Prof. Monty Jones on the Wednesday morning (Agenda items 2 and 3), Mr Oshima on Wednesday afternoon (items 4 and 5) and Dr Ngongi on Thursday morning (items 6 to 8).

Prof. Jones, Executive Director of FARA, welcomed the Hon. Vice President and all the participants to his beautiful home country. He stated that rice is an important commodity in Africa as the catalyst for African agriculture, and that the CARD initiative plays an important role in aiming for the target of doubling rice production in Africa from 14 million tonnes to 28m tonnes. He described the achievements, challenges and opportunities of Sierra Leone. Among the challenges, he cited disconnection from the private sector, which is the most crucial weakness of all NRDS in SSA countries, especially in key intervention areas such as rehabilitation and construction of feeder roads, and the provision of infrastructure, including markets, irrigation, post-harvest processing, provision of agricultural services and credit. He challenged all SC members to conduct a detailed and realistic review of how the private sector can be brought on board to help in learning its demands and needs as well as what it can offer towards achieving the NRDS objectives.

The Hon. Vice President, Alhaji Samuel Sam-Sumana, expressed his gratitude at being able to address the steering committee and open proceedings on behalf of H.E. President of the Republic of the Sierra Leone. He also stressed the importance of promoting domestic rice development in Sierra Leone – for its contribution to economic growth, for enhancing food security and for increasing rural incomes. The aim was to increase self-sufficiency by expanding the rice cultivation area as well as increasing rice productivity from the current low yield level of an average 1.87 t/ha to 4 t/ha by 2018. The Vice President gave an assurance that the Sierra Leone NRDS, which is aligned with the country's Smallholder Commercialisation Programme, was promoting, among other processes, the improvement of post-harvest handling, marketing and the capacity development of stakeholders. He commended CARD for being very instrumental in facilitating Sierra Leone's rice development strategy and in identifying the gaps and priority intervention areas. He also expressed his appreciation on behalf of H.E. the President for the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme One (WAAPP 1), which recently provided US\$ 22m for the development of the value chains of inputs, production and agro-processing for both rice and cassava.

## **2. Agenda item 1: Chairmanship and minutes of the previous meeting**

Mr Hiroshi Hiraoka, Coordinator, CARD Secretariat, explained the practical reasons for looking back at the minutes of the GM3<sup>1</sup>, the Executive Summary of which contained the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/CARD\\_GM3\\_Final\\_Report\\_E.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/CARD_GM3_Final_Report_E.pdf)

'Four Next Steps' for SSA countries, the CARD Secretariat and Steering Committee members, rather than only at the previous Fourth Steering Committee meeting.

Dr Monty Jones and Mr Ralph von Kaufmann (FARA) said that IFAD is expected to provide FARA with financial assistance this quarter for organising a South-South Cooperation programme.

### **3. Agenda item 2: Progress of the CARD Initiative**

(1) Mr Hiraoka presented<sup>2</sup> the progress report on the initiative in 2010. The details were as follows:

- **Progress of the G1 countries.** The 'CARD Working Week' for the 12 First Group countries had undertaken gap analysis and identification of the priority intervention areas for forthcoming funding opportunities by reconciling the on-going and near-future interventions with the stated needs extracted from each National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS). By illustrating this through the development of a Sub-sector Intervention Element Matrix (SIEM), it could be seen that key among the priority investment needs of many governments were: (i) the provision/support of seed, (ii) infrastructure development of irrigation/water management, (iii) provision/support for mechanisation, (iv) infrastructure development for quality improvements, and (v) infrastructure development for access to market<sup>3</sup>.
- **Progress of the G2 countries.** Following the addition of 11 countries as the Second Group during the Third General Meeting in May 2010, the Secretariat organised a regional workshop in July 2010 with the valuable help of AfricaRice at its headquarters in Benin to conduct peer-review of the NRDS of 11 countries. The CARD Secretariat considered progress to be better than expected. Ethiopia and Togo had formulated their NRDS and were at the implementation stage. Benin, Burkina Faso and Rwanda were expected to finalise and launch their NRDS in the very near future. Most of the remaining countries were progressing smoothly although Côte d'Ivoire and Congo DRC, especially, were experiencing delays due to the prevailing political situation, and because of some hindrance in data collection.
- **Alignment with CAADP.** Very intensive discussions have taken place between the respective secretariats of CARD and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), whose representative, Mr Komla Bissi, sent an apology for his absence from the meeting. During the Working Week session for the 12 First Group countries, the priority intervention areas identified by the NRDS Taskforce were shared and discussed with the CAADP country focal points in order to strengthen the institutional linkages on both sides. The example of Tanzania had been used to demonstrate that

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Ag2\\_Doc2\\_CARD\\_Updates\\_Final.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Ag2_Doc2_CARD_Updates_Final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/SIEM\\_Output\\_List.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/SIEM_Output_List.pdf)

the outcomes and framework of the NRDS were compatible with and would be incorporated in the CAADP National Agricultural Investment Plan by providing necessary concrete action on the ground.

- **Networking.** By presenting the CARD initiative and participating in the discussion at many meetings, such as FAO Regional Workshops, Africa Rice Congress, GRiSP write-up workshop, Africa Green Revolution Forum, International Rice Policy and Investment Conference at the International Rice Congress, the network and partnership with other Development Partners had been expanded and strengthened. As a tool for the facilitation of information sharing, details of 14 NRDS, 505 projects and 34 matrices have been uploaded to the CARD website to assist project and programme planners.
- (2) Major comments and points made in discussion of the progress of the initiative were as follows:
- **Analysis of the interventions, needs, gaps and priorities using the SIEM** (Sub-sector Intervention Element Matrix). As commended by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture, the participants confirmed the matrix to be a useful tool for identifying gaps in the value chain and for highlighting priorities. Based on the analyses obtained through the SIEM on the interventions, needs, gaps and priorities, a number of questions and concerns were raised as to whether SC members could have better addressed various key issues (World Bank) such as policy, institutional and capacity development and marketing aspects through research and extension programs (FARA), strengthening the linkages of the rice value chain (AfDB), post-harvest handling and quality improvement (IFAD). The Co-Chair, Prof. Jones, encouraged SC members to consider the points raised during their future development of programmes/projects.
  - **Funding of CAADP.** In response to a question from JICA, the World Bank said that the funding of CAADP had not been allocated formally but the process would start in due course. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture shared the experience of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) in its application to the GAFPS – the GoSL prepared the application with IFAD, World Bank and the AfDB, and with the assistance of a supervising agent, resulting in US\$ 50m being approved. However, he pointed out that there seemed to be duplication in the series of processes that could be avoided to improve the exercise. The Co-Chair, Prof. Jones, challenged the SC members to determine how CARD can facilitate, initiate and fast-track with the process.
  - **Approach to China.** FARA suggested that SC members should consider how to address China, and that CARD should try to convince the NRDS Taskforce to approach China to seek information on both private and public activities. The CARD

Secretariat reported that some countries had faced problems in capturing information on Chinese interventions. JICA announced that it had begun bilateral dialogue, occasionally sharing CARD information, with the Ministry of Commerce and Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Chinese agricultural research organisation. The Chinese side had shown interest in CARD and, although it seemed difficult for them to share all their information, they were keen to learn from their own experience and that of others to better handle future interventions in Africa. The Co-Chair stressed that linkage with China was very important, and that certain key institutions in Vietnam and Japan could help in approaching them.

#### **4. Agenda item 3: Updates by SC members**

- (1) Acting on updated information received by the CARD Secretariat since the last GM3 from IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS and the World Bank, Mr Hiraoka first gave a presentation<sup>4</sup> on their behalf. This was followed by individual updates from each member organisation.
- **AfricaRice on GRiSP:** Since the proposal on GRiSP was submitted to the CGIAR consortium in May 2010, there had been a series of consultations, evaluations, reviews and revisions by the consortium board, the Interim Science and Partnership Council (ISPC), donors and others. A conditional approval was given in October 2010 and GRiSP was officially launched in November 2010 during the International Rice Congress in Hanoi. GRiSP planning and management meetings are held at least monthly, using the web and internet tools. The call for applications for the Global Rice Science Scholarships was expected by the end of February. A GRiSP Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop was planned for March 2011 at IRRI to develop a results framework with indicators to measure and report progress against milestone and impact indicators. All centres had received conditional funding but IRRI and AfricaRice were left in abeyance because GRiSP was not included in the conditional budget for 2011. Hence, AfricaRice and IRRI were the only CGIAR centres with no confirmed budget for the first half of 2011, and were having to wait until the new Strategic Results Framework (SRF) document was approved.
- **AfDB:** the AfDB plans to support in 2011 three CGIAR centres to conduct research for development of the six top priority crops of the CAADP, including rice, cassava, maize and wheat. The Bank's project also includes support to the African component of the GRiSP program, especially research and development of the rice value chain in the Bank's regional member countries. The second phase of NERICA project was underway, with the requests from 18 countries, possibly in the different design from the first phase, looking at the value chain, foundation seeds and rice production per

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/JICA\\_IRRI\\_JIRCAS\\_WB.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/JICA_IRRI_JIRCAS_WB.pdf)

se. Other major projects including rice-related activities, such as PAPIL in Senegal, the Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project in Liberia and the 'Projet sucrier de Markala' in Mali were approved last year.

- **FAO:** technical advice had been provided by FAO, together with an opportunity for CARD to present the project during a workshop and consultation on policy in Sierra Leone. With Japanese funding, FAO had organised several workshops where a total of 29 countries presented their NRDS, covering formulation and implementation. To boost returns from rice production, FAO also supported capacity development, including on-going rice seed production projects funded by Spain in five countries. Other rice-related projects were the business project in Benin to promote enterprise development; a commercial production project by enterprises and farmers' organisations in Mozambique to rescue 1,000 farmers who had lost seeds; development of new improved rice varieties and NERICA varieties; and efforts to develop and promote low-cost production technology in Togo and in Niger where the prices for imported inputs are high.
- **IFAD:** support for CARD was channelled through rice-specific and rice-related projects in Group One countries. With regard to IFAD small-grants, IFAD management would approve the small grants proposal once all the questions only just delivered to FARA had been answered satisfactorily. IFAD put strong emphasis on smallholders and on strong partnership in the value chain. The market is seen by IFAD as the prime starting point since IFAD believes that markets should be a driving force that determines production systems. Other IFAD activities included capacity development of farmers to enable them to fully utilise technology and facilitation of access by smallholders to financial services – credit for timely inputs of seeds and fertilisers.
- **FARA:** funding for South-South exchange would be managed by AfricaRice and IRRI while FARA would create a platform to capture the lessons learned and the best practices for promoting South-South cooperation. This platform would extend South-South cooperation within the rice sector and those of other crops, which is within FARA's mandate as a stakeholder organisation. FARA participates in CAADP national and regional processes, coordinating and expanding partnerships between stakeholders, to make sure that rice is a key commodity component of the national compacts and agricultural investment plans. Nineteen countries had signed such Investment Plans while a further 14 countries were going through various processes. FARA has published a policy brief on rice for researchers and ministers and other policymakers concerned in rice development, and is considering further policy briefs on a range of topics. FARA has also made efforts to strengthen networking and linkages through the internet between key research institutions, farmers'

organisations and funding organisations.

- **The World Bank:** some delays have been experienced with the PHRD grant proposals (worth US\$ 80m) submitted by the World Bank to Japan on behalf of Mozambique, Tanzania and MRU countries. The Bank is holding back resources for Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire, due to the political situations prevailing in those countries, and is checking with JICA in Madagascar to seek its view on whether the Bank should continue to withhold resources for Madagascar or release these to another country, preferably Rwanda. The World Bank has requested that part of the US\$ 20m funding to IRRI and AfricaRice be utilized to conduct a study of market demand to obtain evidence that rice technologies released for scaling-up are market-driven.
- **IRRI:** out of a projected US\$ 100m spend, a US\$ 20m rice breeding programme targeting Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa started last year. The breeding programme focuses on specific mega-environments, while incorporating consumer preference and market demands. Another US\$ 20m slated for capacity development somehow disappeared along the line in November 2010 and is now off the table.
- **AGRA:** a strong emphasis on rice is placed by AGRA in activities in Ghana, Mali, Mozambique and Tanzania, and it is now authorised to engage in two of the Mano River Union countries, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The breadbasket approach encompassing the value chain is one of the focuses of AGRA, which wishes to see and support a more central and active role for the private sector in seed production, and has also set up through small-scale farmers' organisations its marketing programme for quality improvement in post-harvest handling, including rice milling. AGRA has successful experience in improving access to credit, not only for farmers to be able to access to credit but also to benefit from reduced interest rates, i.e. reduced from 25% to 15% in Tanzania, and from 18% to 10% in Kenya.

In its soil health programme, AGRA has directed effort towards reducing the cost of access through the agro-dealers system so that at least the use of nitrogen can be improved.

With the CARD now well established, AGRA made better use of the CARD Secretariat for increased and better integration of AGRA's rice work with CARD; Mr Hiraoka having delivered presentations on CARD to all the AGRA staff and proactively participated in the Management Committee of AGRA. Other SC members should be encouraged to discuss and agree more integration in future concrete activities with AGRA.

- **JIRCAS:** many PhD graduates within JIRCAS were willing to contribute to the CARD Initiative. JIRCAS presented the new five-year research plan<sup>5</sup> to be launched

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/5th\\_CARD\\_SC\\_update\\_JIRCAS.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/5th_CARD_SC_update_JIRCAS.pdf)

in April 2011 and covering technology development such as stress-tolerant transgenic plants.

(2) Discussion after the updates from each organisation produced the following:

- It is recommended that all SC members should deliver one-page briefs to the CARD Secretariat in accordance with the format to be prepared by the Secretariat (FARA/the Co-Chair).
- It was also suggested that the Secretariat should make sure that the NRDS Taskforces were informed about the projects/programmes of SC members so that they could see how those interventions fit within their frameworks and develop more effective and efficient resource mobilisation (FARA/the Co-Chair).
- The Secretariat was commended for its preparation of the analytical documents on gap analysis and priority areas of intervention. It is strongly recommended that the Secretariat should (i) continue to refine the documents on a six-monthly basis, and make them available on the website for NRDS taskforces as well as the supporting partners, and (ii) conduct some research work on good practice, particularly on the issues of the value chain, specifically on post-harvest handling. Though JICA has been extensively involved with production, there seem to be serious problems with post-harvest handling, mechanisation, marketing, access to credit and infrastructure. With the support of the SC members such as USAID and AGRA, which have experience in support and partnership with the private rice sector, the Secretariat could set out examples of the good workable practice to help organisations such as JICA in preparing their own investment plans.
- The Secretariat politely requested funding bodies such as the World Bank, the AfDB, IFAD and others to share the renewal cycles and timing of the country assistance strategy papers so that more resources might be secured for rice development.

The chair concluded the session with a reminder that no other continent had as much potential as Africa to increase arable production through the use of rich natural resources and endowments as well as a potential market for the returns through which investments could be paid off. He hoped that the SC members would ensure that the priorities listed would be supported by each member, with special attention to farmers, fertility and the value for money aspects.

#### **5. Agenda item 4: South-South cooperation**

Mr Oshima of JICA recalled that important South-South partners such as Brazil, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, BRAC, the Aga Khan Foundation, etc. had attended the GM3 in Arusha, Tanzania. He introduced Professor Xuan,

who served on a number of boards including that of the Rockefeller Foundation but is best known in Vietnam as the 'Father of Rice' for his role in turning the country into the world's second largest rice exporter.

Prof. Xuan's presentation on South-South Cooperation in Rice Development highlighted the case of Vietnam and some African countries<sup>6</sup>, and gave rise to extensive responses from his audience. Mr Oshima said that JICA had a project of triangular cooperation on agricultural development with Mozambique and Vietnam around Nante in the northern area in Mozambique, with considerable hope of successful achievement. AfricaRice expressed its wish to collaborate with Prof. Xuan in introducing Asian technologies to Liberia. The Centre said it had received an award from the South-South Cooperation Unit of UNDP in November 2010 at the Third Annual Global South-South Development Expo in recognition of the contribution of NERICA to food security in Africa. As a result, the Centre had been encouraged to develop and share another South-South Cooperation project with UNDP Liberia: 'Mitigating effects of climate change on rice and vegetable production in Liberia'. FAO in Accra also wished to collaborate, and AfricaRice had informed the SSC Unit at UNDP NY that the Centre will collaborate with Vietnam in the project's implementation.

Prof. Monty Jones, of FARA, commended Prof. Xuan's work, and noted that FARA could play an important role through its wide network as an entry point for finding national and regional partners for South-South collaboration and for disseminating the achievements.

AGRA raised the idea of taking African farmers to Asia to learn how Asian farmers and communities organise and manage farming systems since the high cost of land preparation was a major disincentive to irrigated agriculture in Africa. Prof. Xuan wanted to bring African farmers as well as students to Asia but financing was the issue with such programs; he had previously been able to invite only three lecturers from the University of Liberia to Vietnam.

Prof. Xuan explained how student training in plant breeding in Vietnam had been shaped after the country's war when all but one professor had left for the USA. In their fourth year, students cross varieties under the supervision of a professor and involve themselves with farmers to learn practical skills, which contributes in turn to the rapid spread of technology and to strengthening the capacity of farmers and students or young researchers.

Mr Oshima said the Co-Chair's summary of the GM3 meeting showed how to create a South-South platform. He reported on his bilateral visit to Vietnam that had raised the possibility of training African farmers and technicians in Vietnam with JICA support, along the lines of the training programmes for African extension workers already supported by JICA and IRRI at PhilRice. Other SC members were encouraged to support such

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/VoTongXuan\\_CARD\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/VoTongXuan_CARD_Meeting.pdf)

programmes. During his visit, which also discussed CARD and triangular cooperation in Mozambique, the Minister for Agriculture, the deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Planning and Investment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam expressed support and offered future action.

JICA had supported Africa to develop an appropriate technical package of irrigation and inputs, but it was accepted some farmers might not be able to prepare irrigation facilities and afford agricultural inputs. Prof. Xuan responded that irrigation was necessary in order to double rice production by 2018, but rainfed lowland rice could be one of the successes in the absence of irrigation. The US technique of dry seeding just before high rainfall could work well, rather than transplanting.

FAO aid its support for South-South cooperation includes a current project in Nigeria's Northern region where China has supported 100 ha of rice cultivation and helped establish storage facilities.

Mr Hiraoka (CARD Secretariat) gave<sup>7</sup> a progress report on South-South cooperation and put forward a proposal for a stocktaking exercise on the facilities and human resources in the seven countries (Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) which had participated in the previous General Meetings. He requested cooperation and assistance from AfricaRice (Egypt), IRRI (offices in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) and JIRCAS (global network) to collect information for stocktaking for potential South-South cooperation. The Secretariat proposed to identify the mode of the contacts of the focal points of SSC partners and to identify thematic areas in South-South cooperation for discussion by the next Steering Committee meeting. FARA reported that Dr Amr Farouk, who is the focal point of ARCT in Egypt has also been appointed the focal point for COMESA.

## **6. Agenda item 5: Fourth General Meeting and the Sixth Steering Committee**

Mr Hiraoka (Secretariat) made a presentation on the draft concept note for GM4<sup>8</sup>, which was followed by discussion on the dates, seminar/side-event and chairmanship, producing a general consensus on the overall framework of the agenda and the participants.

- **Date:** the Secretariat was requested to ask SC members to choose between alternative possible dates after both FARA and AfricaRice pointed to busy timetables in November.
- **Seminar/Side-event:** AGRA proposed a session with women farmers. The Secretariat suggested involving farmers and the private sector in either a one-day or half-day seminar in parallel with the GM4. Prof. Jones (FARA) suggested that the local private

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/SC5\\_Doc7\\_One-pager\\_southsouthcooperation.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/SC5_Doc7_One-pager_southsouthcooperation.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Ag5\\_Doc8\\_GM4\\_concept\\_note.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Ag5_Doc8_GM4_concept_note.pdf)

sector, including farmers in Uganda, should be invited rather than their representatives in continent-wide associations. Mr von Kaufmann (FARA) insisted that the participation of the farmers should be facilitated so that they can contribute effectively, adding that there are expert facilitators in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, or with the AWARD programme, who could help CARD in this. The Secretariat was requested to draft ideas for SC consideration, taking into account the points raised, and exploring whether a one-day seminar should be organised or if a representative group of SC members could meet as an extra meeting.

- **Chairmanship:** regarding the Chairmanship, AfricaRice, IRRI, FAO and the World Bank will consult on this with a CARD SC representative and inform the Secretariat on the outcome.

## **7. Agenda item 6: Rice (agriculture) statistics**

(1) AfricaRice (Dr Akintayo) gave a presentation on the Japanese Government-funded Emergency Rice Project to improve rice statistics and seed production<sup>9</sup>. JICA and FARA commended the excellent result and other SC members concurred.

(2) SC members also reported on their efforts to strengthen rice statistical data in SSA countries:

- IRRI carried out socioeconomic surveys in Mozambique and Tanzania at a cost three or four times higher than the amount allocated for the Emergency Rice Statistics survey. Mr Joe Rickman (IRRI, Eastern and Southern Africa) stressed the importance of establishing a database to store relevant information under the CARD umbrella in order to avoid duplication of work by partners as well as allowing crosschecking and comparison of information.
- AfDB had supported AfricaRice to survey the NERICA cultivation area.
- The World Bank had supported Ghana to conduct a national agricultural survey and to develop the capacity of the institutional aspects as well as human resources such as extension officers to collect data.
- USAID had contributed to develop the capacity of several Governments in SSA to analyse data through IFPRI.

(3) Other major discussion points were:

- Dr Namanga Ngongi (AGRA): timely release of reliable rice data with a reasonable disaggregation is indispensable. The adoption rates of the improved rice varieties are higher than for other crops such as sorghum and millet (10% or so), because of the nature of the cash crops.

Mr Hiroyuki Kubota (JICA): asked the following questions – what is the main

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<sup>9</sup> [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Rice\\_stat.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Rice_stat.pdf)

constraint to improving data quality, and is the public or private sector more effective at producing good quality seed? Dr Akintayo (AfricaRice) responded that, although the private sector plays an important role in seed production, the resulting supply still could not meet the huge demand. The lessons learned indicated that the best way forward could be better training for farmers in the selection and conservation of good quality seed for the following season. Regarding the quality of statistics, Dr Akintayo claimed that the problem was one of available manpower both in data collection and, more seriously, for data processing. AfricaRice was already training NARS staff in various countries to address these issues.

Prof. Monty Jones (FARA/Co-Chair): while commending AfricaRice's work and thanking Japan for its financial support, he questioned the data on the areas under cultivation of rice and improved rice varieties such as NERICA. Dr Akintayo responded that it could only be said with certainty that NERICA was cultivated over 700,000 ha, the figure obtained with the help of the AfDB project fund and verified by AfricaRice economists. However, data quoted from NERICA-growing countries indicated over 1 million ha had been grown, but the economists were unable to confirm this. SG2000 had already celebrated achieving 1 million ha of NERICA production in Africa, and the non-verified area declared by Nigeria alone would underpin that figure.

Prof. Jones proposed that the next step in respect of data on the labour force should be to disaggregate it by gender to show who actually produces rice as opposed to focusing solely on the heads of households, many of whom are not themselves actively engaged in cash crops or subsistence crops. The CARD initiative should give full support to AfricaRice, and possibly IRRI, to continue this effort.

Mr Hiraoka (CARD Secretariat) said establishing the competitiveness of locally-grown rice against imported rice through improvement of quality of rice and reduction of the production cost has been a key concern. The quality and price of rice in the market at the retail level could be an indicator capable of providing strong messages to producers. Likewise, the role and capacity of the rice millers and processors are very significant to the development of rice, could be good indicators to measure a country's rice sector development. For example, the number of rice millers in Uganda skyrocketed from 100 in 2003 to more than 7,000 in 2009 due to the increase in import tariff to 75% by the Ugandan Government in 2003.

AfricaRice and the Co-Chair, Dr Ngongi urged CARD to maintain the momentum for its partnership initiative on developing the statistics capacity of member countries.

## **8. Agenda item 7: CARD Initiative Plan 2011**

CARD Secretariat presented the proposed work plan for 2011<sup>10</sup>, including support to G1 Countries and G2 Countries, interaction with development partners, promotion of South-South cooperation, regional projects, coordination with other initiatives/projects such as CAADP, both at country and regional level, and with FAO projects.

Discussion and comments by the SC members went as follows:

- it was suggested that the Secretariat should invite the President of KOICA to the CARD Initiative as a result of JICA contact with South Korea and the country's interest in joining the CARD. Extending an invitation to China to a seminar or other side event at the next General Meeting was also proposed, taking into account not only its presence in rice development *per se* but also its engagement in Africa.
- IFAD: more coherent coordination on the ground and cooperation in a more coherent manner were required to deal with the complex issues inherent in value chains. The comparative advantages of individual agencies had to be taken into account, A starting point could be Sierra Leone where the Vice President had shown its strong commitment and AGRA and USAID were also engaged in rice sector. The CARD Secretariat said that it would be a perfect opportunity to start such discussion on possible cooperation in Mano River Union countries during the side event that afternoon.
- Prof. Monty Jones (Co-chair/FARA): commended the work plan for 2011 and proposed its approval by the CARD Steering Committee. In doing so he sought more coordination and holistic support by the Secretariat for the 23 countries, and suggested selecting two or three countries on which all SC members would concentrate support to meet the demands for rice development might ensure success. This would require reaching out to the private sector, which is a key player in the rice value chain and should be taken fully into account in the work plan.
- Dr Ngongi (AGRA): the experience of AGRA in the private/commercial sector in seed production by farmers could be tapped into. CARD Secretariat could prepare a paper by hiring consultants and by collecting inputs from SC members, and prepare and facilitate discussion in a session devoted to the issues surrounding the private sector in rice development during the GM4, Uganda.

FARA: a companion document to NRDS would be necessary for presentation to the private sector firms and institutions to raise their awareness and advise them on how to engage in CARD. As a step forward, CARD could convene a meeting with key private sector representatives or, alternatively, could take advantage of private sector meetings such as AGRA's African Green Revolution Forum in Accra to be held in September or the Agribusiness forum organised by EMRC. The next major EMRC forum, at which about 500 participants are expected, is scheduled for November.

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<sup>10</sup> URL: [http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Ag7\\_Doc10\\_Plan\\_2011\\_Final.pdf](http://www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/Ag7_Doc10_Plan_2011_Final.pdf)

World Bank: while tending to focus on the production side, also placed heavy importance on harvesting and downstream activities, where the private sector plays a crucial role. The Bank is pushing governments to learn lessons from Asian states and to engage in the private sector.

USAID: warned that it should be borne in mind that some sections of the private sector are more interested in gaining access to donor funds than in creating sustainable systems. USAID has developed various country plans in rice development, the focus being on the value chain. Seeds and technology are extremely important but improved seeds as well as techniques to improve yields already exist to some extent. In order to sustain the boost in production and to substitute for imports, greater emphasis was needed on the downstream side of processing and marketing in which the private sector plays such crucial roles. Dialogue with the private sector and stronger focus was needed on capacity development in milling and on other areas such as access to credit.

Dr Ngongi: AGRA has marketing programs collaborating with and supporting the private sector, and other SC members should send details of their similar activities to the Secretariat to help improve dialogue and assist in drawing up a proposition for GM4 in November or an agribusiness forum where more sustainable systems would be discussed.

- AfricaRice: specified one good approach was for processors to discuss with farmers where to buy seeds of certain varieties, how much grain was to be produced and the selling price, all of which might help millers to obtain financing and to find markets.
- IRRI: manual labour provides the bulk of crucial input in Africa into land preparation, crop production and through to post-harvesting, ensuring that all crops, including rice, are planted and harvested on time. However, in order to maximise future productivity, mechanisation and support from multinational machinery companies will be required. The underlying requirements that might persuade these large companies to invest in Africa should be researched, either bilaterally or through any existing partnerships with companies. Lessons learned from Asia could provide a useful starting point.
- IFAD: pointed out that differences between Asia and Africa should be taken into account in introducing large-scale machines – population density is low and infrastructure is poor in Africa.
- Prof Jones: agreed that the contexts of rice production in Africa and Asia are very different, making it essential to start with a realistic understanding of what might be transferrable into Africa's dynamic and diverse production systems; upland, especially, is very different because of the presence of many stones and the practice of broadcasting rice, while there is little irrigation in lowland. Any introduced

technology, machines, systems and assistance should be appropriate to the scale and type of farmers, the nature of input and output markets, milling capacity and other infrastructure. The Pan-African Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Consortium (PanAAC) could be an entry point for engaging with the private sector.

- FAO: remarked that improving utilisation of rice might be instrumental in expanding the rice market and product demand.
- AfDB: said the results of the study on demand by the market and consumers would provide important incentives for rice producers.
- The CARD Secretariat: agreed to coordinate and prepare a suitable medium – either as a side event or allocated slot prior to or within the main GM4 forum – for inclusion of the private sector. The Secretariat had been recommending to the country taskforces that they should accommodate diverse members, not only researchers but also policymakers and planners, along with the various Ministries of trade and commerce, and also engage with the private sector in discussing operationalization of NRDS. The Secretariat had supported the taskforces by providing technical consultants to facilitate discussion and would from now on support NRDS TF in lobbying with Governments, DPs, the private sector and others for better coordination. To this end, SC members were requested to communicate with officials in their countries, and to provide more information to individual NRDS Taskforces to enable better coordination and analysis.
- Extensive discussion took place on the proposed workplan in 2011, with the Secretariat noting suggestions by the participants and agreeing to come forward with concrete proposals, especially concerning engagement with the private sector.

## **9. Agenda item 8: Any other business and wrap up**

Dr Ngongi (AGRA/Co-Chair) closed the Fifth Steering committee by thanking USAID for having participated as an observer, also thanking 'Dr Rice' from Vietnam for his insights as guest speaker, the Hon. Vice President of Sierra Leone and the Hon. Minister for Agriculture for their valuable participation and commitments, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and all other participants.

## List of Participants

No	Title	Family name	Other names	Position	Organization
1	Mr	WITTE	Eric	Senior International Affairs Specialist	USAID
2	Ms	ESTES	Nancy	Guinea and Sierra Leone Mission Director	USAID
3	Dr	AKINTAYO	Inoussa	ARI & Rice Time Coordinator	Africa Rice
4	Dr	ATTIOGBEVI SOMADO	Eklou	Principal Agronomist	African Development Bank (AfDB)
5	Dr	NGONGI	Namanga	President	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
6	Dr	KEBE	Brahim	Crop Production and Protection Officer	Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
7	Dr	JONES	Monty Patrick	Executive Director & Head of Mission of FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
8	Dr	NSIMPASI	Luyaku Loko		IFAD
9	Mr	RICKMAN	Joseph	Regional Coordinator, IRRI East & Southern Africa	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
10	Dr	YAMAOKA	Kazumi	Research Coordinator, Research Strategy Office	Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
11	Dr	OYA	Tetsuji		JIRCAS
12	Mr	KUMASHIRO	Teruyoshi	Director General of Rural Development	JICA HQ
13	Mr	NAKAMURA	Takahiro	Program Officer, Rural Development Department	JICA HQ

14	Mr	OSHIMA	Kenzo	Senior Vice President	JICA HQ
15	Mr	KUBOTA	Hiroyuki	Advisor to the Director	JICA HQ Rural Development Department
16	Dr	GYASI	Kadir Osman	Agricultural Economist	World Bank
17	Ms	TATSUTA	Akiko	Project Formulation Adviser	JICA Sierra Leone Field Office
18	Mr	YOSHIKAWA	Masahiro	Project Formulation Adviser	JICA Sierra Leone Field Office
19	Dr	SESAY	Joseph Sam	Minister for Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
20	Mr	SAM-SUMANA	Alhaji Samuel	Vice President	Republic of Sierra Leone
21	Dr	DIXON	Alfred	Director General	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI)
22	Mr	KAMARA	Peter	Focal Person, NRDS	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Food Security (MAFFS)
23	Mr	SAOTOME	Jun	Representative	JICA Vietnam Office
24	Dr	VO-TONG	XUAN	Director	Tan Tao University
25	Mr	HIRAOKA	Hiroshi	Coordinator	CARD Secretariat
26	Mr	VON KAUFMANN	Ralph	UniBRAIN Technical Coordinator	CARD Secretariat
27	Mr	FUJIWARA	Kazuyuki	Technical Coordinator	CARD Secretariat
28	Ms	BWIRE	Caroline	Executive Assistant	CARD Secretariat
29	Mr	INAMURA	Jiro	Senior Representative	JICA Ghana Office
30	Mr	SAGARA	Fuyuki	Representative	JICA Ghana Office