

Cooperation in Rice Sector Development in Mano River Union Countries

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 24th February 2011

Background and objectives

With a view to doubling the rice production in ten years in Sub-Saharan Africa and thereby contributing to the food security, poverty reduction and economic growth in a sustainable manner, the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) was established in May 2008 at the margin of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD IV). The Coalition to date has assisted 23 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in formulating and implementing the National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) while promoting efficient and effective execution of rice-related interventions through creating synergies, focusing on capacity building and south-south cooperation.

In the countries of Mano River Union, i.e. Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, rice is the most dominant staple food and therefore plays more crucial roles in achieving the above-mentioned development agenda than in any other parts of Africa. Under the CARD Initiative, Guinea and Sierra Leone, as the First Group countries, have developed the NRDS and identified the list of investments needs for the immediate future. Meanwhile, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia are the Second Group countries and currently at the final phase of formulating the NRDS.

Taking advantage of the occasion of the CARD Fifth Steering Committee, this meeting is held in order for the key development partners, both at local and regional / headquarters levels, to exchange and discuss the rice-related interventions in these countries.

Participating organizations (invited)

CARD Steering Committee participants

AfricaRice, AfDB, AGRA, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS, NEPAD/NPCA, USAID, World Bank

Development partners in Sierra Leone

AfDB, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, WFP, World Bank, DfID, EU, Irish Aid, USAID, GTZ, COOPI (Italian Embassy funded project), BRAC, CARE International, Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision

Local government organization

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone

Agenda

Time	Event	Presenter
14:00 -	Registration	
14:30	Opening	
14:35 – 14:45	Remarks by Hon. Dr. Joseph Sam Sesay, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security	
14:45 – 15:00	Progress of MRU countries under the CARD Initiative - National Rice Development Strategies - Needs resource analysis (Guinea, Sierra Leone)	Secretariat
15:00 – 16:00	Presentations of on-going rice-related interventions of development partners in the sub-region - WAAPP Plus - Cooperation of JICA in MRU countries - Implementation of GAFSP in Sierra Leone - Africa Rice Initiative in MRU countries - AGRA's future activities in Liberia and Sierra Leone - Cooperation of USAID in MRU countries	World Bank JICA IFAD AfDB / AfricaRice AGRA USAID
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 18:00	Discussion on future actions and cooperation in rice development in the Sub-region - This includes the Q&A of the presentations	