

Inception Report

1- Basic information

Name	SAGBO Agossou Prospère Anthenne
Organisation	Agricultural Engineering Office Ministry of Agriculture, Breeding of Fisheries
Position	Head of Land Improvement Service

2- Current Situation concerning CARD and NRDS in Benin

❖ NRDS

In Benin, the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) process with technical and financial support of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) is ongoing. The document has been written; adopted and launched since May 2011. His main points are:

Contents of NRDS

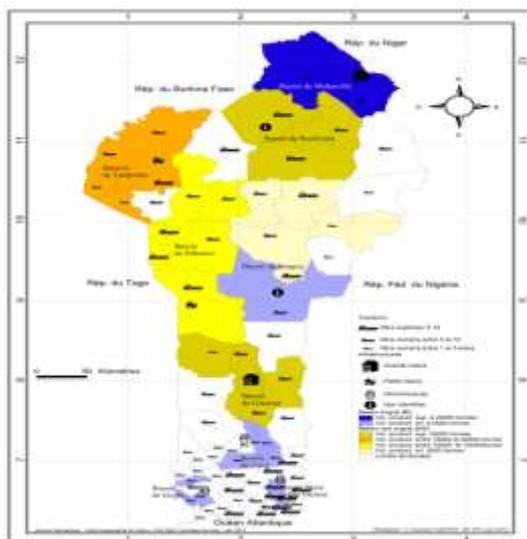
The document assess the rice's sector in both national and international policies (PSRSA, OSD, PDDAA/NEPAD); stakeholders and system of rice production; research' experiences in rice; programs and projects involved in rice development; challenges and perspectives

Operational strategies:

The main issues to be addressed by the strategy are:

- Availability and accessibility of good seeds;
- Availability of fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide;
- Facilities for rice processing and marketing;
- Facilities for water management and irrigation;
- Availability of mechanization and maintenance of equipments;
- Accessibility to technical innovations and professional knowledge;
- Availability of credit

❖ MAP OF RICE PRODUCTION



The map show that the two systems of rice production (irrigated and non-irrigated) are both present from north to south.

The most important area regarding the amount of rice production are Malanville an irrigated area and Glazoué a non-irrigated arrea. They also have the biggest facilities for rice processing.

❖ List of priority projects

Thirty nine (39) rice related projects have been monitored in Benin. The analysis these projects intervention comparing to the interventions demanded by the NRDS, permitted us to map out eighteen gaps out of which thirteen interventions have been selected as priority to fulfill for NRDS implementation. These priorities are taken account through five projects as shown below

The thirteen selected priorities	The projects title	Summary about projects
Infrastructures for fertilizer distribution	Project to support access to quality inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate availability and accessibility to good seed - Facilitate availability and accessibility to good fertilizers - Promote rice crop protection with methods which are respectful regarding environment - Strengthen farmers' capacity for rice input use Total cost: 0.4 million US dollars
Researchers' capacity bulding for specific fertilizer formulation		
Stakeholders' capacity building for fertilizer supplying		
Support for institutional reform on seed production chain		
Support for the establishment of a proximity network of seed distribution		
Acquiring agricultural equipments	Project to promote sustainable mechanization of the rice sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate access to equipments - Promote accompaniment measures for mechanization Total cost: 1.3 million US dollars
Establishment of experimentation and straining center for agricultural machinery		
Infrastructures and equipment for irrigation	Infrastructure development project for a partial or full water control in rice sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of 7 000 hectares of irrigated schemes - 33 000 hectares of inland valley reclamation for partial water control - Famers capacity building for operation and maintenance and water control equipments ; Total cost: 180 million US dollars
Infrastructures for rice production in inland valley		
Improving the rice processing and packaging	Project to improve the quality of local rice in the local market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Match produced rice quality with standard, - Improve rice market access conditions, - Strengthen actors capacity to conform standard's qualities Total cost: 1.6 million US dollars
Preservation of milled rice quality by improving storage capacity		
Bonus interest rate of credit allowed to actors of rice sector	Project to support the financing of rice sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to availability and accessibility of farmers to good input - Facilitate availability and accessibility to agricultural equipments - Strengthen the rice sector stakeholders organization Total cost: 4.2 million US dollars
Implementation of guarantee fund for the financing input		

Notice: the projects do not have any funding plan so far

List of 'champions

	Etat et acteurs gouvernementaux	PTF	Noyau dur SNDR et ou PSRSA	Acteurs non gouvernementaux
Strategy	MAEP, MDAEP	CARD, AfricaRice, UEMOA, CEDEAO, UA, JICA, chef de file groupe sectoriel agriculture.	Point focal, Prospère SAGBO, Paulin ASSIGBE	CCRB, Jacques BONOU
Planning	DPP/MAEP, INRAB	FAO, BOAD, CTB, Japon, GIZ, FIDA, Pays-Bas,		
implementation	PPMA, DAGRI, DGR, DPQC, SONAPRA	UE		

❖ Organizations involved in CARD initiative and NRDS process

The organizations involved in the CARD and NRDS process in Benin are

- Direction of Planning et Prospect (DPP)
- National Research institute (NRI)
- Agricultural Engineering Office (AEO)
- Farmers organizations (FO)
- Crop Diversity Promotion Agency (CDPA).

List of NRDS task Force core members

- Vigan Rita, focal point from DPP
- AGBOTON Aziz, member from DPP
- AÏZO Marc, member from DPP
- SAGBO Prospère, member from AEO
- ASSIGBE Paulin, member from NRI
- SAVI Adolphe, member from NRI

List of NRDS task Force full members

- Vigan Rita
- AGBOTON Aziz
- KAKPO Bernard
- ABDOULAYE Abbas
- GBLAGADA Charles
- AÏZO Marc
- SAGBO Prospère
- ASSIGBE Paulin
- SAVI Adolphe
- ADEGBOLA Patrice
- FIODENDJI Assise
- BONOU Jacques
- AGOGNON Gérard
- LAWANI Mohamed

❖ Summary progress in the implementation of NRDS

The latest events of the NRDS implementation in Benin were the launching and the first work-week.

The launching ceremony took at Cotonou on May 20th 2011. About 100 persons was invited (a) stakeholders in rice sector(ministry of agriculture, ministry of trade and industry; ministry of finance, ministry of environment, farmers and their organizations, processing rice stakeholders and so on) (b) technical and financial partners such as world bank, CTB, JICA, FAO,GIZ, FIDA, AFD, UE, (c) embassies (Japan, China, Belgium, etc.).

The first work-week for the NRDS implementation took place in June 2011 and allowed the taskforce to establish the gaps to match with future interventions. According to the results of this workshop, the prior sectors to be addressed by new projects for rice development in Benin are:

- With financial support of National budget: mechanization and agricultural equipment, reinforcement of system of credit and system of good seeds chain;
- With financial support ECOWAS: water management and irrigation and fertilizers distribution
- With financial support of others donors: rice processing, farmers organizations and land security

Presently, the taskforce is preparing to hold the second work-week for implementation. This will deal with elaboration of project file for the above mentioned issues and the relative conceptual note.

3- Duties of my organization and myself

❖ My organization's duties with reference to the implementation of NRDS

The mission of the Ministry: Create favorable conditions to improve production, income and welfare for the peasant farmers and others rural stakeholders.

As far as the Agricultural Engineering Office is concerned, its mission is to define and implement the government policy regarding rural equipment and water use for agricultural production, breeding and Fisheries

❖ My department's duties with reference to the implementation

As far as the Agricultural Engineering Office is concerned, its mission is to define and implement the government policy regarding rural

equipment and water use for agricultural production, breeding and Fisheries

❖ **My duties in general and with reference to the implementation**

- Elaboration of policy and strategy and project for irrigation development ,
- Coordination of project activity including design and implementation of project annual plan , and the project administrative task management
- Technical support for various project under the Ministry of agriculture with irrigation or water resources management component

So, it appears that I can contribute to the implementation of NRDS regarding its actions related to irrigation facilities.

❖ **How do I've been involved in the implementation of NRDS**

I have been involved in the NRDS process since 2009 for its elaboration and the implementation as taskforce core member. I have especially participated in Benin to:

- a. the workshop of NRDS formulation;
- b. the workshop of NRDS validation;
- c. the workshop of NRDS launching;
- d. the first work-week to set-up the gaps in rice sector with project;
- e. the workshop of rice mapping.

4- Challenges regarding CARD or NRDS process

❖ **Challenges as a focal point/a taskforce member regarding the implementation of NRDS process (e.g. institutional, capacity):**

Member of the NRDS taskforce are not full time workers on the process so it is sometimes difficult to have them available.

Member of the NRDS taskforce are from different services and places so that it is sometimes difficult to hold meetings without financial support for transportation.

❖ **Tentative idea to deal with the above-mentioned challenges**

We intend to call for financial aid from the Beninese government to address the above challenges.

❖ **My expectation to the course with reference to the challenges**

Apart from tools and good approaches that I will acquire during the workshop, I would like to assimilate the management of infrastructure and equipment that are necessary for rice production and to increase yields. Especially I expect to gain experience of fund research to implement the NRDS.