

**Concept Note
for
Pilot Initiative for Improved Rice Seed Sector
in CARD Countries**

CARD Secretariat

June, 2013

<Overall and Regional Level>

1. Introduction

Stable and timely supply of quality seeds is a key for increasing crop production and productivity, and it is, therefore, of paramount importance for CARD member countries to strengthen rice seed supply chain to achieve the overall goal of CARD initiative, doubling rice production by 2018.

Various actors play important roles in seed production and distribution, and roles of each player should be integrated effectively so that the governments together with the private sector (where appropriate) acquire LONGLASTING capacity to multiply and distribute quality seeds for farmers. Coordination and cooperation between public and private sector are critical factors for the horizontal and vertical integration, and it is only through the integration that actions taken by each actor will result in the increase of national rice production.

Cognizant of the fact that PPP is key for the CARD activities in coming 5 years, the CARD secretariat proposes to start a pilot initiative for improved rice seed sector in some CARD countries as a part of PPP promotion. Through this pilot initiative, target countries will; i) develop "Seed Road Map" in which current seed supply chain is analyzed, issues and gaps are identified and strategies are presented on how to overcome constraints to improve production and timely distribution of quality rice seeds to farmers, ii) develop Investment Plan / Concept Note for interventions based on the "Seed Road Map", and iii) strengthen capacity of relevant stakeholders along the seed supply chain, in situation analysis, strategy development and planning, development of REALISTIC AND ROBUST proposal and fund matching. These outputs will provide relevant stakeholders with shared views on current situation in seed supply chain, gaps/constraints, and strategies to improve rice seed supply, also provide governments and financial institutions and development partners with proposals for investment and interventions. It is also expected that this initiative will enhance the scope of investment/ interventions in seed supply chain in the CARD countries following the process. This pilot effort will contribute to rice production increase in target countries, while the experience and strengthened capacity of this exercise could be applied to seed sector of other crops in the future.

2. Scope

- Period of 12 months (by the end of May, 2014)
- Rice seed only
- 8-12 CARD member Countries

3. Overall Goal, objective and Expected Outputs

Overall Goal: To increase the supply of quality rice seeds in Target CARD Countries

Objective: To identify strategy for improving rice seed supply

Expected Outputs:

- Development of Improved Rice Seed Sector Strategy at each target country, which include reviews on/ drafting seed policies, suggested seed laws that aligns to/ harmonized in regional/sub-regional rules and regulations on seeds.
- Development of country specific Investment Plans/ Project Concept Notes for interventions
- Capacity building of relevant stakeholders in situation analysis, strategy development and planning, development of investment plan and intervention proposals

4. Process and Tentative Schedule

- Sharing the Concept Note of Rice Seed Sector Development with SC members for Comments (May-June 2013)
- Approval on the procedure (at the CARD SC meeting in TICAD V, June, 2013)
- Preparation of format templates (by the mid- July, 2013): this may necessitate the meeting of core technical agencies, i.e. JICA, IRRI, AfricaRice, JIRCAS, BMGF, FAO and AGRA. And this might have to start in May so that partners can have enough time for discussion. Or the brainstorming session might be done at the margin of TICAD V with the above-mentioned organizations (or more specifically, with Joe Rickman, Achim Dobermann of IRRI, Mr. Tokida of JICA, Mr. Joe Devries of AGRA, successor of Bergvinson BMGF to be nominated), if they are all available.
- Selection of Target Countries (Sending Letter, acceptance of Expression of Interest, screening based on criteria) (by the end of August, 2013)
- Formation of Working Group at country level (by mid-September, 2013)
- Briefing at the regional launching workshop/ Video Conference (Late Sep)
- Country Level work Phase 1 (1 Oct – end of Dec, 2013)
 - One-day launching (brainstorming/ planning) session at country level (10-20 Oct, 2013)
 - Gathering necessary information related to seed sector, including mapping, assessment of existing seed policy documents, seed laws (and its conformity to sub-regional laws) and regulations in countries (20-30 Oct.)
 - Core group work session to draft Rice Seed Sector Development Strategy (1– 30 Nov. 2013) WW
 - Preliminary workshop at country Level for feedbacks and comments involving private sector investors, development and financial service providers, development partners, technical personnel among others (by the end of Dec)
 - Submission of the First Draft (Word, Power Point) to the CARD Secretariat (by the end of Dec, 2013)
- Circulation to SC members/ other CARD partners, and Feedback and comments (by 20 Jan, 2014)
- Revision of Draft Strategy based on comments (by mid-Feb)
- Regional Workshop for Peer Review (by mid-Feb, 2014)
- Finalization of Rice Seed Sector Development Strategy (together with National Validation, if it is possible) (by end-Feb, 2014)
- Country Level work Phase 2 (March - May, 2014)
 - Contacting Donors/Development Partners for donor information gathering and consultation (by the end of Mar, 2014)
 - Drafting Investment Plan/ Project Concept notes for interventions (by the mid-April, 2014) WW
 - Circulation to Donors/Development Partners, other stakeholders and relevant government officials for comments and feed backs (by end of , 2014)
 - Finalization of Investment Plan/ Concept Notes (by the end of May, 2014)

5. Assuming some clear figures of investment needs are known at the regional workshop in mid-February 2014, probably some of what is written here could be done earlier. **Selection of Target Countries**

- Criteria

- a. Countries with notable existence of the private sector
 - Existence of Local enterprise
 - Small-medium input dealers emerging (those with AGRA PASS program)
 - New Alliance countries with foreign seed companies / agro-input distributors submitted Letters of Interest
- b. Countries where rice plays significant role in the food crop portfolio
- c. Countries where rice plays significant role as a cash crop in the economy
- d. Existence of other initiatives (e.g. New Alliance countries, target countries under BMGF rice value chain supports, Grow Africa, Interest of WB, CORAF WASP project countries, national initiatives such as Nigeria and Burkina Faso and APRAO)

6. Roles of CARD Secretariat

How the CARD Secretariat supports the process

| Event | Technical inputs | Financial assistance |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Launching Regional Workshop/VC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidelines of actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel cost (air ticket, accommodation, per diem) or VC |
| One-day launching session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process facilitation in preparation for the session (3-days consultant visit) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant's travel cost • Meeting cost (venue hire, lunch, coffee ONLY) – NO ALLOWANCES (sitting, travel etc.) – travel cost may be allowed, considering the past activities |
| Core-group working period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WW (consultant is needed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of cost for venue, lunch, snack etc. Not Allowance –same as above. Travel cost may be allowed. |
| Preparation of the First Draft | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice by consultants (e-mail) • Technical Advice from SC members/ other partners through e-mail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Country level preliminary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of cost for venue, lunch, snack etc. Not Allowance |
| Meetings with key stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (if necessary) visit of CARD Secretariat staff, as necessary and appropriate (e.g. advocacy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Regional Workshop for Peer Review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation • Necessary Arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel cost (air ticket, accommodation, per diem) or VC |
| Finalization of Seed Sector Development Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice by consultants (e-mail) • Technical Advice from SC members/ other partners through e-mail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Contacting Donors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation by Consultants (e-mail) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Drafting Investment Plans/Concept Notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice by consultants (e-mail) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant's travel cost • Meeting cost (venue hire, lunch, coffee ONLY) – NO ALLOWANCES (sitting, travel etc.) |
| Circulation of Investment Plans/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and facilitation (e-mail) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Concept Notes to relevant stakeholders for comments | | |
| Finalization of Investment Plans/Concept Notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice by consultants (e-mail) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| Entire process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Logistic assistance) coordination of meetings etc. (hired by JICA country offices, or JICA national staff?)* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |

* Need to consult relevant JICA country offices for availability of the national staff for the process

How the CARD Initiative follows up

- Synthesize the results of the participating countries as the regional advocacy paper
- Advocate at the high-level forms such as AU, G-8, G-20 through NEPAD
- Provide assistance in advocacy for policy/ institutional changes as recommended, if necessary

7. Roles of Target CARD Countries

Obligations of the NRDS Task Forces

- Ensure the participation of key people
 - o Preparation of full list of participants at the different levels
 - o Contact relevant organizations to ensure the participation
- Timely and thorough actions particularly during the core group working period
- Meet as many as possible during the period of meetings with stakeholders for fully-participatory results

8. Roles of Partner organizations/institutions in the process

Who will be involved and with what roles to be played?

| Who | Roles / process | Remarks |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| WB / CAADP | To discuss with the team - check whether the outputs are compatible with WB / CAADP team regionally (WB) - check whether the outputs may have the opportunity for funding by WB at country level | |
| AfDB / Somado | Technical comments | |
| AGRA / De Vries | Progress info shared, technical inputs required, technical advice on public-private partnership | |
| AFD | | |
| IFPRI | Technical comments on varieties | |
| BMGF / Bergvinson | Detailed foundation seed preparation planning | |
| IRRI / Joe Rickman, Suraporn | Commitment to overall process | |
| Africa Rice / Kumashiro | Commitment to overall process | |
| FAO/ Clayton | Technical comments | |
| FARA/ Fatunbi | Technical comments | |
| NEPAD/ Bwalya | Technical comments | |
| JIRCAS | Technical comments | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| JICA | Technical comments / plus? | |
| CARD Sec | Organize process | |
| | | |
| WB, AfDB, IFAD, JICA, USAID, BMGF | Potential funding agencies for discussion to create synergies | |

<Country Level>

1. Overall goal

- To increase supply of quality rice seeds in target CARD countries

2. Objective

- To develop strategy and plan to improve rice seed supply system in target CARD countries

3. Outputs

- Seed Sector Development Strategy for improving rice seed supply *(see 9. for items to be covered in the document)
- Investment plans/ Project Concept Notes for necessary interventions, based on the strategic document

4. Activities

General)

- Formation of working team

a) Seed Sector Development Strategy

- Identification/ determination of varieties to be produced as seeds
- Identification of the quantity of rice seeds (breeder, foundation and certified seeds) required to achieve NRDS goal
- Identification of location and capacity of seed production by government and private sector.
- Identification of capacity gaps (infrastructure, the number of personnel, technical & knowledge, policy, institutions)
- Identification of key players in rice seed production, multiplication, and distribution(e.g. public institutions, private sector, farmers)
- Identification of roles played by different players, making clear demarcation among them and clarify how actors should related to one another
- Analysis on released varieties, current rice seed production, multiplication, distribution and quality control
- Stocktaking of the programs/projects/ and other interventions on seed (both in general and on rice) development by government, development partners and others (Including regional initiatives such as ARI)
- Review subsidy government programs on seeds, and collect literatures/documents analyzing the programs (also review fertilizer subsidy programs, especially its synergetic effect with subsidy on seed, if any program exists).
- Identification of issues, challenges, constraints at seed production, multiplication, distribution and quality control
- Draft a seed sector development strategy based on the analysis on above mentioned items

- Organize a preliminary workshop to share the draft strategy with relevant stakeholders including private sector players and development partners and take comments and feedback
- Revise the draft based on the comments and suggestions given in the preliminary event, and submit it to CARD secretariat as first draft
- Participate in Regional Peer Review Meeting and present draft strategy and Take comments and feedback.
- Take comments from CARD SC members (in case the Regional Meeting is not held)
- Incorporate comments and feedback provided by peer review meeting and CARD SC members
- Finalize the rice seed sector development strategy with national validation

* Above mentioned activities are to be conducted based on the existing seed policy and development strategy, if anything officially endorsed. In this case, the above activities are to update and provide supplementary elements. If the existing seed policy/strategy covers all seed sector, rice seed sector development strategy will be a “Rice component” of the overall seed strategy. It is important to pay attention, throughout the exercise, to alignment of rice seed development strategy to existing policy and strategy.

b) Investment Plans/ Project Concept Notes

- Identification of donors/development partners who are active/ strategically prioritize seed sector/ have competitive advantage in seed sector (both nationally and internationally)
- Collect information of donors/development partners in terms of areas of interest, strengths, assistance schemes, portfolio, fiscal cycle, proposal formats and other relevant information
- Contact donors/development partners and discuss possibility of supports/contributions for implementation of sector development strategies
- If any donors/development partners showing interest for supports, develop investment plan/ concept notes for interventions, based on Seed Sector Development Strategy and donors interest/capacity/ strengths and budget.
- If no donors/development partners showing interest for supports, develop pipe-line investment plans/ concept notes for interventions

