

**Concept Note
for
Scaling-Up the Initiative for Improved Rice Seed
Sector
in CARD Countries**

CARD Secretariat

January, 2015

<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 March)
- Rice seed only
- Interested 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

- Acceptance of the Expression of Interest (by the mid-Feb, 2015)
- Finalization of target country (by the end of Feb, 2015)

- Formation of Working Group at country level (by the end of Mar, 2015)
- Briefing at the regional launching Video Conference (Mid Apr, 2015)
- Country Level work Phase 1 (Apr – Aug, 2015)
 - o One-day launching (brainstorming/ planning) session at country level (Apr, 2015)
 - o 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 (by mid-May , 2015)
 - o Core group work session (Working Week 1) to draft Rice Seed Development Strategy (May-Jun. 2015)
 - o Submission of the First Draft Rice Seed Development Strategy to the CARD Secretariat (by the end of Jul, 2015)
 - o Circulation of the draft to relevant stakeholders such as private sector investors, development and financial service providers, development partners, technical personnel among others for obtaining feedback and comments (by the end of Aug, 2015)
- Circulation to CARD SC members/ other CARD partners for obtaining feedback and comments (by the end of Aug, 2014)
- Revision of Draft Strategy based on comments (by the end of Sep. 2015)
- Finalization of Rice Seed Sector Development Strategy (together with National Validation, if it is possible) (by the end of Oct, 2015)
- Country Level work Phase 2 (Nov 2015 - Mar, 2016)
 - o Contacting Donors/Development Partners for donor information gathering and consultation(by the end , 2015)
 - o Core group work session (Working Week 2) to draft Investment Plan/ Project Concept notes for interventions (by the end of Feb, 2016)
 - o Circulation to Donors/Development Partners, other stakeholders and relevant government officials for comments and feed backs (by mid- Mar, 2016)
 - o Finalization of Investment Plan/ Concept Notes (by the end of Mar, 2016)

5. 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 (consultant visit or through e-mail) | <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"> • Working Week 1 • Facilitation (consultant) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of cost for venue, lunch, snack etc. NO 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) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Advice from SC members/ other partners through e-mail | |
| 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"> • |
| National Validation | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of cost for venue, lunch, snack etc, if appropriate. Not Allowance |
| 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"> • Working Week 2 • Facilitation by Consultants • Technical advice by consultants | <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/ Concept Notes to relevant stakeholders for comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and facilitation (e-mail) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |

6. 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

7. 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 | |

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 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) Rice 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 Rice Seed Sector Development Strategy based on the analysis on above mentioned items and submit it to CARD secretariat
- Circulate the draft strategy with relevant stakeholders including private sector players and development partners and take comments and feedback
- Circulate the draft strategy (through the CARD secretariat)to CARD SC members to take comments and feedback
- Revise the draft based on the comments and suggestions from stakeholders both inside and outside the country
- 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. Or invite them to the working week and formulate concept notes together with them.
- If no donors/development partners showing interest for supports, develop pipe-line investment plans/ concept notes for interventions

