

Inception Report

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I. Introduction

Ethiopia, with an estimated area of 1.2 mill sq. km, is the second most populous country in Africa. It has enormous potential for agricultural development. Agriculture is dominated by a subsistence, low input-low output, rain-fed farming system. Currently about 25% of its arable land is cultivated. Small holders produce 95% of agric GDP and 85% of emplacement.

Ethiopia has signed CAADP Compact in August 2009, joined the CARD initiative in 2009 as one of the pioneering second group countries and prepared Policy investment framework in August 2010.

Rice is among the target commodities that have received due emphasis in promotion of agricultural production. It is considered as the “Millennium Crop” by the GoE and is expected to contribute in ensuring food security in the country.

The research and development activities so far undertaken on rice in the country, though at limited scale, have shown good productivity level, has also shown the existence of considerably vast suitable ecologies for production along with the possibility of growing, where other food crops do not do well, and compatible with various traditional food recipes. The country has also a comparative advantage of producing rice due to the availability of huge and cheap rural labor as the crop is labor intensive.

The potential rain-fed rice production area in Ethiopia is estimated to be about thirty million hectares based on GIS techniques and rice agro-ecological requirement

1. Situation of CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development)/NRDS (National Rice Development Strategy) and Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program(CAADP) in Ethiopia

1.1 CARD

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have taken the lead to develop a new architecture - a Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) - with the aim to set out an overall strategy and a framework for action to contribute to achieving an African green revolution through one increasingly important crop - rice.

CARD aims to respond to the increasing importance of rice production in Africa, not by ‘re-inventing the wheel’, but by building on existing structures, policies and programs, such as the national agricultural research organization of Africa, the Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Africa Rice Initiative (ARI).

In support of African and Ethiopian rice development by CARD one technical committee chair person of National Rice research and Development strategy was participated on 4th CARD General Meeting in Kampala, Uganda on 8-9 November 2011 from Ethiopia; Director of Planning and Programming Directorate director also represented Ethiopia at the meeting on Side Event



CARD Workshop for the 4th TICAD Ministerial Follow-Up Meeting held in Marrakech, Morocco on 4 February 2012. The JICA advisor and Chairperson of Technical Committee represented Ethiopia at the meeting of 5th CARD General Meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 4-6 March 2013.

1.2 National Rice Research and Development Strategic of Ethiopia (NRRDSE) formulation and implementation

The National Rice Research and Development Strategies of Ethiopia (NRRDSE) were formulated by a technical committee. The members of technical committee were represented by research institutions, Ministry of Agriculture, SG 2000 and Ethiopian seed enterprise. The NRRDS reviews the current status of rice sector and explores the challenges and opportunities within the rice sector. The document also outlines the scopes and vision of the development of rice sector in Ethiopia. It emphasizes on three components namely (i) rice research, source seed and capacity, (ii) rice development and capacity building, and (iii) coordination and management of the strategies. The NRRDSE was officially launched in February 2010.

After the launching, the technical committee with assistance from focal persons of rice growing regions drew plans for implementation of NRRDSE. The implementation plan was officially approved in July 2011. A task force was formulated to oversee the implementation of NRRDSE. This taskforce includes:-

National Rice Research Coordinator, representative from the Agricultural Mechanization Research Directorate, Coordinator of Agricultural economics, Research-Extension and Farmers' Linkage (EIAR), agronomist from Agricultural Extension Directorate (MoA), seed expert from Ethiopian Seed Enterprise (ESE), an expert from Sasakawa Global 2000, advisor for Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), an the Planning Directorate (MoA), and JICA advisor representing Secretariat (MoA). The rice secretariat of MoA currently serves as a focal point for Ethiopia's NRRDS taskforce. Dr. Dawit Alemu (Coordinator of Agricultural Economics, EIAR) serves as a Chair and Dr. Tareke Berhe (Rice and Tef Advisor for ATA) serves as a co-chair for the NRRDS taskforce.

The NRRDSE aims to ensure national food security and increased income, and reduce poverty by progressively transforming the rice sector into a viable production and marketing system. It seeks to achieve this goal by taking a whole value chain approach and by promoting agro ecology based interventions, small scale and commercial rice systems, gender considerations, and environmental sustainability.

The key priority intervention elements envisaged include strengthening the policy and institutional support, research and extension capacity building, promotion of improved seed system, fertilizer distribution and marketing, efficient irrigation and water management systems, mechanization, improved post harvest technologies and enabling finance to all the actors involved in the rice value chain.

Rice is currently grown in swamps such as in Fogera plains where the population hitherto has been receiving food aid. The relatively higher productivity of rice crop under irrigated conditions over other traditional crops such as Tef and other cereals provide a viable economic alternative for thousands of

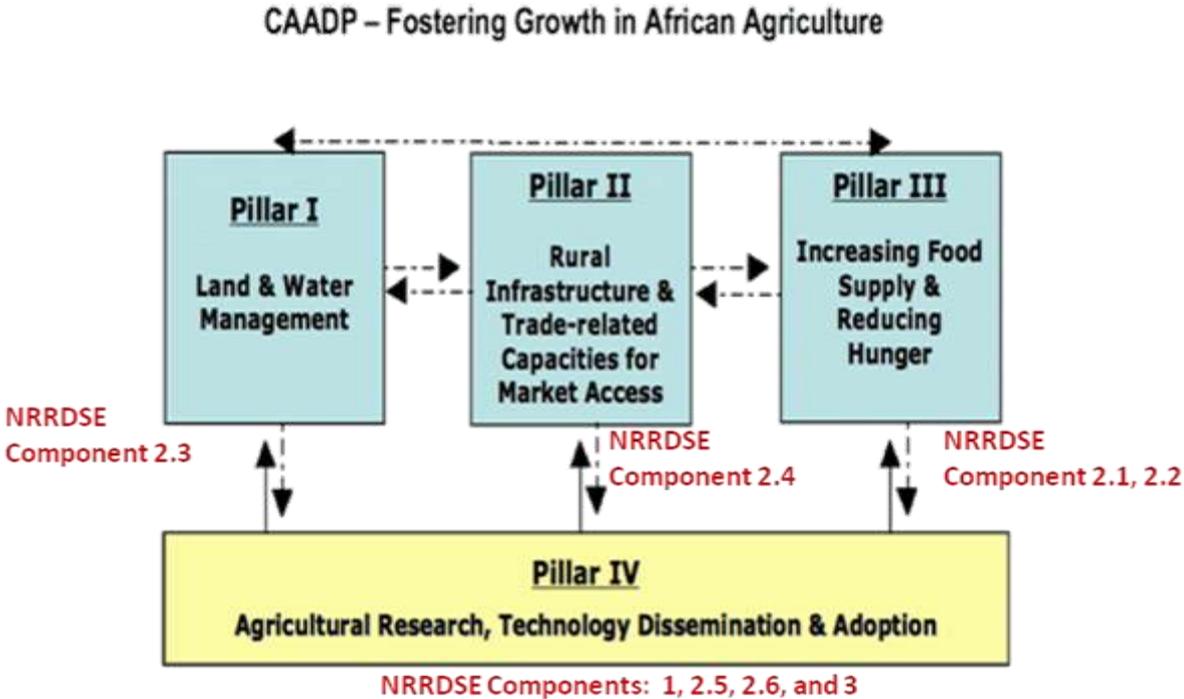


farmers who have until now managed subsistence farming. The existence of diverse ecosystems such as the uplands, rain fed lands and flash flood prone areas (during the rainy seasons) in which rice can be grown in Ethiopia further enhances the scope of rice production in the country. In addition, the existence of huge unexploited lands in Ethiopia expands the scopes of rice production.

The higher production volumes and the prices of rice grains over other cereals enable farmers to substantially raise their farm revenues. The long shelf life and the variable ways in which rice can be used in to prepare a range of traditional food recipes have increased the acceptability of rice amongst rural population. Rice provides a good integration of rural livelihoods by providing by-products such as straws and husks that shall be fed to livestock and/or used as alternate source of fuel.

Given these advantages, rice sector provides a tangible avenue for implementing strategies on food security and poverty reduction in Ethiopia. However, currently the limited investments in rice sector in research and development prevents farmers and other stakeholders from the benefits that the rice sector stands to offer.

The priorities outlined in NRRDSE are consistent with the overarching strategies of Ethiopian government reflected in the new Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) which aims to double agricultural production by 2015. The proposed approaches under NRRDSE are in alignment with the four pillars of Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) as shown in the figure below.



The rapid increase in area under rice cultivation has created a significant demand for improved inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and tools/machineries in Ethiopia. The current agro dealer networks in rice growing areas are inherently weak and inefficient, and therefore provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors in rural areas. Furthermore, the substantial increases in rice production in the recent years have also heightened the demand for processing of rice. The existence of small mills in rural areas does not adequately cover the demands and also play a negative role on the quality of locally produced rice. Thus milling of rice provides a major avenue for small and large scale investors in rice sector.

With regard to interventions for the immediate future, By taking the entire rice value chain, the taskforce members of Ethiopia analyzed the various issues facing all the stakeholders along the rice value chain, and came up with interventions that would address the constraints in each subsector. These interventions are shown in a matrix called 'Subsector Intervention Element Matrix' (SIEM) in annex one and the NRRDSE Development process in annex two

1.3. Duties of Ministry of Agriculture and Planing and programming Directorate with the implementation of the CAADP and NRRDS

NRRDS will be implemented and coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture with close collaboration of the different directorates within the Ministry and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) at the federal level, and by the regional agriculture offices (AOs) together with the respective regional agricultural/ pastoral/agro-pastoral research institutes .The anagement of the strategy at national level will be streamlined within the normal operations of Ministry of Agriculture with the Planning and Programming Directorate as a rice secretariat taking the leading role.

- Planning and programming Directorate is a focal point for the over all CAADP process and implementation and a secretariat for the NRDS accordingly the role of it in NRDS are
 - compilation of NRRDSE budget for each financial year;
 - developing NRRDSE implementation plan for the strategic action areas;
 - monitoring and evaluation of physical and financial performance of the strategic action areas; and
 - Receiving all rice related project/program me proposals, in consultation with RTC, analyze and make it ready for approval by the national Rice Steering Committee (RSC).



1.4. Challenges on promoting the alignment between the CAADP and the CARD /NRDS process

- Weak involvement of stakeholders in the established platform
- Weak involvement of private sector in both cases
- Weak institutional capacity at all levels
- Weak alignment with government institutions and programs

Measures need to be taken

- Strengthening of involvement of stakeholders in the established platform
- Strengthening the involvement of private sector by working on advocacy in both cases
- Building the capacity of institutions through continuous support
- Strengthening the alignment with government institutions and programs at all levels through various awareness creation platforms



