



CARD UPDATE

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NRDS Implementation in Progress

With the aim of doubling rice production in the continent, the overall goal of the CARD Initiative, one of the top prioritized activities of the CARD Secretariat is to promote NRDS implementation through assisting the efforts by NRDS Task Forces: accelerating fund matching process with potential investors to materialize NRDS Concept Notes. As of February 2015, stock taking exercises on “**CARD-Labeled Projects**” - NRDS Concept Notes being implemented by different development partners to directly and/or indirectly contribute to implementing NRDS – reveals that a total of **86 projects/programs in 11 countries and 5 regional projects** are identified as “CARD-Labeled Projects”.

Although the number of CARD-Labeled Projects differs from country to country, the CARD Secretariat observes that; 1) Mainstreaming of NRDS with overarching policy framework (e.g. CAADP), 2) Ownership of NRDS Task Force, and 3) Strong supports from higher authorities (e.g. Minister and Permanent Secretary) are the key factors of success. For the sake of knowledge sharing and peer learning, some of the successful cases will be presented by NRDS Focal Points in the forthcoming 6th CARD General Meeting in November 2015.

Scaling-Up of Pilot Initiative for Improved Rice Seed Sector

Since the inception of the pilot in September 2013, all 10 participating countries, namely **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda**, have finalized their **National Rice Seed Development Strategies** together with investment plans/concept notes. It is worth mentioning that in collaboration with the CARD Steering Committee member organizations, especially with **West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) of World Bank**, some of the concept notes have been already under negotiations for project formulations in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria.



3rd Seed Working Week,
Cote d'Ivoire, January 2015

Given this remarkable progress, the 10th CARD Steering Committee Meeting unanimously approved the proposal to scale up the targeting countries from present 10 to all the remaining CARD countries. The official invitations have been subsequently sent to the NRDS Focal Points of these countries. Official Expression of Interests to join the initiative are to be submitted to the CARD Secretariat by 20 February 2015. Inception Seminar through Video Conference system shall be held in April 2015, which would be shortly followed by organization of Working Weeks in respective countries.

CARD Side Event at International Rice Congress

On 29 October 2014, a side event with the theme of “**An Innovative Attempt for Rice Sector Development in Africa**” was organized by the CARD Secretariat at the occasion of

the 3rd International Rice Congress (IRC) 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. With the presence of more than 150 participants from a wide range of stakeholders, the activities on the CARD Initiative with emphasis on its strong partnership with international research community were jointly presented by



the Secretariat, AfricaRice and IRRI. The progress made by the CARD Initiatives, all of which is the results of joint efforts by 23 member countries as well as 11 Steering Committee member organizations, was highly appreciated by the audience.

10th CARD Steering Committee Meeting

The 10th CARD Steering Committee meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 26 October 2014. Co-chaired by JIRCAS and World Bank, the meeting discussed: 1) Update of CARD Activities (mainly for NRDS implementation), 2) South-South Cooperation, 3) Pilot Initiative on Improved Rice Seed Sector, and 4) Way Forward (GM6, scaling up of CARD seed initiative, follow-up on Mechanization initiative, strengthening country level partnership/coordination among SC members, mid-term evaluation of CARD initiative, etc). The meeting confirmed that the overall CARD activities were on the right track with the necessity of further efforts to strengthen its partnership among and beyond SC member organizations.



6th CARD General Meeting

Based on the consensus of the CARD Steering Committee members, the CARD Secretariat made a proposal to the Ghanaian government to hold the 6th CARD General Meeting in Accra, Ghana in November 2015. Upon acceptance by the government of Ghana, related parties will receive an official invitation letter to the meeting.

COALITION for AFRICAN RICE DEVELOPMENT

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