

The Ninth Steering Committee of the Coalition for African Rice Development

Monday, June 3rd 13:00 – 14:30

Land Mark Tower Hotel, Yokohama, Japan

MINUTES

The Ninth Steering Committee Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development was organized on 3 June 2013 at Land Mark Hotel, Yokohama, Japan. The meeting was attended by the officials and experts from all 11 members of the Steering Committee (AfricaRice, AfDB, AGRA, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS, NEPAD and World Bank). The meeting was co-chaired by IRRI and WB (Please see the list of participants attached as Annex 1).

1. Objectives

- To agree on the process of PPP Pilot on Seed Sector Development
- To discuss on the management of CARD initiative in coming 5 years
- To update SC members on CARD related activities

2. Overviews and Highlights

(1) PPP Pilot Initiative on Improved Rice Seed Sector

The outline of the new PPP pilot, “Pilot Initiative for Improved Rice Seed Sector in CARD Countries” was briefly explained by the CARD Secretariat (Please see Annex 2 and 3 for the details). After a thorough discussion, the proposal was generally approved with the committed support from the SC members. Among significant comments given are;

- The new initiative needs to be aligned with the existing system and similar-minded initiatives on rice seed sector development to avoid duplications and create synergy effects.
- Quick stock taking on existing and forthcoming initiatives should be conducted with cooperation from the SC members, especially research institutes which have comparative advantages on seed sector.
- Role of public and private sector should be well defined (e.g. production beyond breeding seed is generally the domain of private sector), however, the contexts surrounding seed sector differ country to country.

Decisions:

- The CARD Secretariat will proceed the process as proposed in the Concept Note.
- The CARD Secretariat will request the SC members to share information on existing and forthcoming related initiatives on rice seed sector development for stock taking.

(2) Management of CARD initiative in coming 5 years

Having considered the suggestion made and generally welcomed in the 5th CARD general meeting, the SC meeting discussed the representation of CARD member countries at CARD general meetings as co-chairs for better ownership and governance. After the presentation of a proposal by the CARD Secretariat (Please see the Annex 4), the meeting basically discussed as below;

- There will be one chair and two co-chairs for the coming general meetings.
- The two co-chairs will be from the CARD member countries - one each from Anglophone and Francophone countries on day 1 and another Anglophone/Francophone pair on day 2 to give ample opportunity to all CARD member countries to co-chair the general meeting.
- The chair of the CARD general meeting will be chosen from among the CARD SC members - the first day of the general meeting will be chaired by the outgoing SC chair while the second day will be chaired by the incoming SC chair.

Criteria for the selection of co-chairs from the CARD member countries were agreed as follows;

- Host country of the general meeting
- Official Rank of Focal Points
- Focal Point's knowledge about CARD
- Other conditions (e.g. Rice status in countries, production, consumption)

(3) Update by SC members on CARD related activities

Followed by the activities report by the CARD Secretariat (Please see the Annex 5), each SC members shared the CARD related activities since last general meeting in February 2013.

- The EU funded south-south collaboration project on mechanization (funding channeled through IFAD) will be launched in July 2013. The project involves AfricaRice, IRRI, national partners and FARA and is coordinated by AfricaRice.
- Preparations for the Third Africa Rice Congress are under way; the Congress will be held in Cameroon during the 3rd week of October (www.africarice.org)
- Launching of Rice Emergency Initiative on seed systems and agricultural mechanization in April (AfricaRice)
- R&D support in Sierra Leone and Liberia under WAAPP(AfricaRice)
- Support in post-harvest in Nigeria (JICA)
- Analysis on Rice Production in Asia for Sustainability from Socio-economic and environmental perspective (FAO)

(4) AOB

- It was agreed that the next SC meeting would be held in September 2014, Bangkok (same timing as 4th International Rice Congress to be held in Bangkok).
- For the sake of public relations and networking with global rice related research community, the CARD Secretariat would explore all the possibilities to organize an IRC side event on CARD.

Annex

1. Participant List
2. Proposal for Pilot Initiative on Improved Rice Seed Sector Development
3. Concept Note on Improved Rice Seed Sector Development
4. Proposal on Management of Future CARD General Meetings
5. Update CARD Related Activities

END