

6. Establishment of mechanization service centres for rice production

7. Support for rice quality improvement

8. Infrastructural development for rice quality improvement

National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) Ghana



A strategy for
commercialized rice
industry for food
security

Ministry of Food and Agriculture



Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

The **CARD Initiative** was launched at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in 2008 and spearheaded by JICA, NEPAD, AGRA. Other core partners include the following research agencies and regional/international financial institutions: AfricaRice, AfDB, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JIRCAS and World Bank.

The goal is to double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa from 14 to 28 million tons in 10 years (2008 – 2018).

The goal will be achieved by (i) using the rice value chain approach, (ii) developing the salient rice-growing ecologies, (iii) building capacity and (iv) South-south cooperation arrangement.

The objectives of CARD are to: (i) rationalize and increase investment for rice sector development mainly through existing funding frameworks, (ii) develop capacities of governments to effectively manage rice sector development as well as to secure government funding / donor investment, (iii) provide enabling environment for rice-related investment both for development agencies and governments and (iv) better coordinate interventions based on the shared view on rice development through NRDS which has to be in line with overarching development frameworks (GPRS II, CAADP, ECOWAP, METASIP, GSGDA, etc).

Currently, CARD supports the following 23 Sub-Saharan African countries:

- **First group countries:** Cameroon, **Ghana**, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda and

- **Second group countries:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia.

The Rice Subsector

In Ghana, rice is one of the five selected food security commodities articulated in the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) developed within the framework of CAADP and ECOWAP. It is also emphasized in the national priorities set out for the sector initially in the GPRS II and now the GSGDA (2010-2013).

With support from CARD initiative, Ghana has developed a National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) which has seven thematic areas, namely, seed system, fertilizer marketing and distribution, post harvest handling and marketing, as well as irrigation & water control investment. Others are equipment access and maintenance, research & technology development and community mobilization, farmer based organizations & credit management.

Specific challenges noted in the rice sub-sector include competitiveness, milling technology, mechanization along the value chain, packaging,

opportunities in irrigated lands and marketing of produce. To be consistent with the METASIP & FASDEP II, the NRDS seeks to address these constraints through the value chain approach which includes major capacity support in land development & irrigation water provision, production inputs, postharvest management & rural infrastructure. The interventions will help to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the rice subsector.

Proposed NRDS Interventions

The priority areas of intervention are as follow:

- 1. Human resource development for rice seed production and distribution**
- 2. Infrastructure development to improve rice seed quality**
- 3. Development of lowlands/inland valleys with water control structures for rice cultivation**
- 4. Support for the dissemination of improved rice technologies**
- 5. Support for the mechanization of rice production**