

Chairman's Summary of the Second General Meeting of CARD

Tokyo, 4th June 2009

The Second General Meeting of the “Coalition for African Rice Development” (CARD) convened in Tokyo on 3rd and 4th June 2009. The Meeting was attended by delegates from the 12 Sub-Saharan Africa countries in the first group of countries approved at the First General Meeting as well as from two observer African countries and the Secretariat of the Mano River Union. Participants from 21 organizations also joined the Meeting as Supporting Partners of the Initiative, along with seven non-SSA countries as South-South Cooperation partners for rice development in SSA.

Presentations were made and discussions held on the following topics:

1. National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) of the first group of countries

The 12 countries presented their NRDS to the Meeting, followed by general observations and comments by WARDA on behalf of the Steering Committee members.

The session produced the following conclusions:

- The participants acknowledged and appreciated the efforts made by each country and the assistance provided by the Coalition towards elaborating NRDS within a limited timeframe.
- The NRDS should be considered as living documents and should undergo further elaboration as soon as possible to, *inter alia*, sharpen prioritization and articulate approaches.
- Human capacity development and financial commitment are key priority issues for implementation of successful rice development.
- The importance of country ownership and coordination for the effective implementation of NRDS among stakeholders within a country as well as between a country and Supporting Partners was emphasized.

2. Supporting Partners' approach to African rice development

Supporting Partners made presentations on their approaches to rice development in SSA, and their assessment of the needs of the first-group countries.

The discussion concluded that:

- While each Partner has shown its comparative advantages in rice development, more coordination among African rice producing countries and Supporting Partners will

be needed to bring about more efficient and effective investment in the rice sector in SSA.

- To this end, a more comprehensive information system should be established in order to capture and share information among relevant stakeholders.

3. South-South Cooperation for rice development in SSA

Non-SSA countries made presentations on their experience in rice development and, where appropriate, their collaboration with African countries. The participants appreciated their willingness and capacity to provide technical assistance to African rice development

The discussion concluded as follows:

- South-South cooperation will be an essential component for achieving NRDS goals. Each country has unique expertise which it can offer based on its own experience.
- The experience of these countries, particularly in capacity building, technology transfer and management of demonstrations would add value to the planning and implementation of rice development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Necessary arrangements should be made to enable these countries to provide technical assistance.

4. Next steps

Based on the presentations and discussions above, the Meeting felt the need to maintain the momentum of the Initiative and to this end recommended the following actions:

- Coordination
 - At national level
 - Make coordination mechanisms operational for the implementation of NRDS
 - Ensure alignment of NRDS to relevant development and finance frameworks, including CAADP and PRSPs for political buy-in and adequate financing for rice-related investment
 - At regional level
 - Identify areas of intervention and modalities
- Implementation of NRDS
 - Conduct detailed analysis of needs-resource matching to identify gaps and priority areas for intervention.
 - Elaborate each sub-sector strategy, making sure that past experience is well reflected.
 - Conduct stakeholder consultation for coordination and harmonization of

support measures, paying special attention to capacity building.

- South-South cooperation
 - Modality of support / cooperation from non-SSA countries should be encouraged and where appropriate facilitated by the Secretariat in collaboration with interested countries / institutions.
- Information system
 - Establish CARD information system and web page

5. Other business

- The General Meeting endorsed the proposal of the Steering Committee to add the African Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank as new Steering Committee members.
- The first-group countries agreed that the NRDS should be widely distributed to the public.
- Supporting Partners present at the meeting agreed that the information given in the report 'Baseline Survey on Rice Related Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa' be accessible to the public.
- The next General Meeting will be held within one year. Meanwhile, the next Steering Committee will take place tentatively in November 2009.

(Appendix) List of Participating Countries and Agencies

Governments of Sub-Saharan Africa

Republic of Cameroon
Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Kenya
Republic of Madagascar
Republic of Mali
Republic of Mozambique
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Republic of Senegal
Republic of Sierra Leone
United Republic of Tanzania
Republic of Uganda

Observer Governments / Sub-Regional Organizations of Sub-Saharan Africa

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (observer)
Republic of Liberia (observer)
The Mano River Union (observer)

Governments of non-Sub-Saharan African Countries

Republic of Indonesia
Malaysia
Republic of the Philippines
Kingdom of Thailand
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Arab Republic of Egypt
Federative Republic of Brazil

Supporting Partners

African Rice Center (WARDA)
African Development Bank (AfDB)
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
European Union
Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO)
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Supporting Partners (continued)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Rice Research Center (IRRI)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan International Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The World Bank

World Food Program (WFP)

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of Japan (MAFF)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

Sasakawa Africa Association

Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID)