The 7th CARD General Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan from 2nd to 4th October 2018. The Meeting appreciated the overall CARD contributions to the rice sector development at both country and regional levels. The Meeting approved the framework for the second phase of CARD; (i) the overall goal is to be “(further) Doubling of rice production” from 28 million metric tons (the tentative figure) to 56 million metric tons, (ii) the timeframe is to be 12 years from 2019 to 2030, (iii) the second phase is to adopt the “RICE” approach that is composed of Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness and Empowerment components, while maintaining value chain approach, capacity building and strong partnership with private sector as cross cutting approaches. Also, the expansion of CARD membership and the Steering Committee was approved; (i) nine new member countries, namely Angola, Burundi, Chad, Congo Republic, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Niger and Sudan, (ii) the World Food Program (WFP) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The 14th CARD Steering Committee Meeting

After the 7th General Meeting, the 14th CARD Steering Committee meeting was held on 4th October 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. The SC members discussed about the management and operational guidelines for the 2nd phase of CARD. The SC members also agreed that a side event of TICAD VII on CARD will be held at the end of August 2019.

The CARD High-Level Meeting

On 5th October 2018, the CARD High Level Meeting was held as a Side Event on TICAD Follow-up Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo. Dr. Kalibata, the President of AGRA, did a Keynote Speech related to the major achievements of CARD 10-years. The two Ministers from CARD member countries, H.E. Mr. Harison Edmond Randriarimanana, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Madagascar and H.E. Dr. Papa Abdoulaye SECK, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment of the Republic of Senegal, participated in a Panel discussion about further promotion of rice sector.

Achievement Objective

According to FAOSTAT, the significant progress made in rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2008 that resulted in 108% achievement (from 14 million in 2008 to 30.1 million metric tons in 2017 [provisional]) against the overall goal of CARD (28 million metric tons).

NRDS Revision

In 10 countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal and Togo, the taskforce teams have started the revision of NRDS. Most CARD member countries’ NRDS covered up to 2018. Therefore, they are revising their NRDS into the 2nd version covering from 2019 onwards. Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique and Zambia have already revised and validated their NRDS.

Knowledge Co-Creation Program

A two-week knowledge Co-Creation Program supported by JICA was conducted in 2018 in Japan, on “Promotion of African Rice Development in SSA - Rice Production Infrastructure”. The purpose of the program is to develop country specific Action Plans to improve for the implementation of NRDS as well as policy planning, implementation, management and operation for promotion of rice production infrastructure.

The 21 NRDS Focal points and officers who are in charge of Rice Production Infrastructure from 14 countries participated in this program. Various successful cases were shared among participants and they visited Tochigi prefecture to learn about Roles of Local Government and other organizations on Rice Production Infrastructure Development, Operation and Maintenance. They also visited Nikko Toshogu Shrine to learn Japanese culture. The last day, they presented their action plans, which they are to implement their learnt skills after going back to their home country.

CARD Secretariat

General coordinator in CARD Secretariat was changed from Mr. Takanori SATOYAMA to Dr. Yusuke HANEISHI in December 2018.

COALITION for AFRICAN RICE DEVELOPMENT
CARD Secretariat, c/o AGRA, The West End Towers, 4th floor PO Box 66773 Westlands, 00800 Nairobi, Kenya