

Inception Report

1. Basic Information

Name	Damien BYANDAGARA
Organisation	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
Country	RWANDA
Position	Professional in charge of Food Security Crops

2. Current Situation concerning CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development) and NRDS(National Rice Development Strategy) in Rwanda

2.1. Achievements, on-going activities and way forward.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Rwanda received the invitation to be member of CARD in January 2010 and a Task Force that lead the development of National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) was set up and communicated to CARD in April 2010. The list of the Task Force Members is attached.

In May 2010, 4 members of NRDS Task Force from Rwanda attended the CARD third General meeting in Arusha/Tanzania.

In July 2010, 3 members of NRDS Task Force from Rwanda attended the Regional workshop for NRDS development held at Cotonou/Benin

In August/September 2010, based on the Rwanda Agricultural Development Board (RADA, currently RAB) rice program, the Members of the Task Force issued the draft zero of NRDS with the Assistance of JICA.

In October 2010, with the Assistance of JICA, a consultant was recruited to carry out the Map sector policy and strategies related to rice development. A copy of the map is attached

In March 2011, with the assistance of JICA, a national consultant was recruited to finalize the draft zero of NRDS.

In June and July 2011, two working weeks were organized with the following outputs:

- Mapping resources and identification of gaps in Rice sector (Matrix of Rice value chain, Mapping existing projects and Gaps)
- Drafting of Concept notes: 16 priority interventions among gaps were identified and related concept notes drafted.

In September 2011 the NRDS was officially launched by the Permanent Secretary of the MINAGRI in presence of representatives of CARD Secretariat.

In November 2011, 3 members of NRDS Task Force attended the CARD Fourth General meeting held at Kampala/Uganda which focused on Countries achievements and Private sector development.

In February/March 2012, 3 members of NRDS attended the Regional/Workshop in Nairobi/Kenya which focused on Agriculture mechanization.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

After drafting Concept notes for 16 priority interventions, the main activity is working on thematic issues and we have started with mechanization.

During all this process, following documents were produced and are summarized below:

The National Rice Development Strategy

Rice is one of the major staple crops in Rwanda. Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), a consultative group of development partners and research institutions, has set out to double rice production in Sub Saharan Africa. Spearheaded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the CARD has taken the initiative of drawing National Rice Development Strategy for Rwanda which has been launched in September 2012.

It is envisaged that Rwanda will attain the self-sufficiency in rice production before 2018 and will be well positioned to compete in local and regional market-places with significant improvements in quality and value. The medium-term goal is to double the area under rice cultivation by 2013 and increase output by three-fold. The long-term is to increase area under rice cultivation to 28,500 ha from 7,000 ha in 2010.

To attain the above described goals, the following objectives are set:

- i) Expand the area under rice cultivation by developing new marchlands and by diversifying the ecosystems under which rice is grown;
- ii) Consolidate and efficiently use the land and water to improve productivity of existing rice cultivars in marchlands;
- iii) Improve access and distribution of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to smallholder rice growers;
- iv) Enhance the quality of the rice grain through improved management practices during post harvesting, drying and storage of rice grains;
- v) Introduce efficient and effective regulations on trade of rice at national level;
- vi) Raise the standard of milling operations, thereby improving the quality and competitiveness of locally produced milled rice.

As illustrated below, the strategy proposes following required actions in order to deal with issues on each point of rice sector value chain.

Seeds

- To breed quality seeds
- To ensure maintenance of released rice varieties within the farming system;
- To ensure availability of adequate certified rice seeds to satisfy national demand

Fertilizers

- To procure adequate quantity and quality fertilizers;

- To promote private sector service providers invest in bulk fertilizer procurement and distribution;
- To provide site specific fertilizer recommendations across all rice schemes

Irrigation and water management

- To increase area under rice production in irrigated conditions;
- To rehabilitate old and run-down rice schemes within the developed marchlands;
- To improve irrigation water use efficiency within existing and new marchlands

On farm Technology dissemination

- To increase adoption of appropriate rice improvement technologies
- To scale up identification and characterization of major pests and diseases of rice in all rice schemes in Rwanda
- To design and implement pests and diseases measures.

Mechanization

- To increase rice productivity through efficient land use;
- To reduce human labor cost in rice production and post –harvest handling activities
- To improve access and availability of farm machineries and implements for rice production

Quality improvement

- To increase the milling quality of Rwandan rice;
- To minimize the harvest and post harvest losses of rice;

Access to market

- To improve physical access to national and regional markets;

Access to finance

- To increase access to agriculture finance by rice farmers and other players in the rice value chain

PLEASE, FIND ATTACHED OTHER DOCUMENTS ELABORATED DURING THE NRDS PROCESS.

- Document of NRDS Rwanda;
- List of projects intervening in the rice sub sector;
- Document on Rwanda Needs SIEM
- A presentation that includes : Prioritized interventions topics

2.2. Organizations involved in CARD and NRDS process

List of NRDS Task Force Full members

Names	Position		Nominated as
Norbert Sendege	Former Director General of Former Rwanda Agricultural Development Board (RADA), currently Director General of Crop Production in the Ministry		Focal Point of CARD and chairperson of NRDS Task Force
Francois Nsengiyumva	Former Crop Intensification Program Coordinator, currently Chairman of the Post Harvest Handling and Storage Task Force		Member of the NRDS Task Force
Edouard Cyubahiro	Head of Rice Development Unit in Former RADA		Member of the NRDS Task Force

Innocent Ndikumana	Institute of Agriculture Sciences in Rwanda (ISAR)		Member of the NRDS Task Force
Laurent Gashugi	FAO/Rwanda		Member of the NRDS Task Force

Organogram which shows major related organizations and indicates the position of Task Force

This organogram can be seen in Rwanda NRDS document on page 41.

3. Duties of the Organization

3.1 Duties of the Ministry of the Agriculture and Animal Resources in general and with reference to the implementation of NRDS

The Mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources is to initiate, develop and manage suitable programs of transformation and modernization of Agriculture and livestock to ensure food security and to contribute to the national economy.

One of the key pillars of this vision is the transformation of agriculture from subsistence to a productive high value; market oriented farming that is environmentally friendly and has an impact on other sectors of the economy.

With reference to the implementation of NRDS, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources is the chair of the Steering Committee whose main functions are:

- Setting the vision, goals, projects and monitoring processes of NRDS;
- Annual review of the progress of various rice related projects/programs under NRDS to ensure appropriate coherence and alignment of projects with overall NRDS objectives;
- Mobilization of Resources;
- Advocacy in all rice related sub sectors for the Government and other stakeholders.

3.2. Duties of the Department of Crop Production in general and with reference to the implementation of NRDS.

The main duties of the General Directorate of Crop Production which is my department are:

- To formulate policies, programs and strategies for the development of food and exports crops;
- To coordinate the implementation of agricultural policies in collaboration with MINAGRI Agencies and Projects.
- To identify projects for the implementation of policies and strategies for agriculture development.
- To monitor the implementation of crop production programs.
- To ensure partnership with national, regional and international stakeholders on the improvement and development of crop production

With reference to implementation of NRDS, the General Directorate of the Crop Production is the heading Institution of the NRDS Secretariat. The main duties of this Secretariat are: Project formulation, support to projects formulation, and monitoring and evaluation.

3.3. My duties in general and with reference to the implementation of NRDS

In the Department of Crop Production, my main duties are:

- To initiate urgent mechanisms aimed at availing affordable fertilizers and other agricultural inputs for food security crops;
- To work closely with local governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of planned seasonal activities for food security crops;
- To ensure the collection of data and information from local government and management of early warning systems;
- To produce regularly reports on the production of food security crops.
- To organize and facilitate working groups on the food security crops.

With reference to the implementation of NRDS, as the recently nominated Technical Coordinator, my main duties are:

- To link up rice development stakeholders (projects, RAB, DPs and other Government Institution);
- To follow up rice projects implementation;
- To organize the collection of data and statistics on rice development;
- To prepare and organize rice related meetings and events.

How I have been involved in the implementation of NRDS?

Before to be nominated as Technical Coordinator of the NRDS, I participated in various activities carried out during the Working weeks and in all meetings with stakeholders during the process of formulation and validation of the NRDS.

3. Challenges of CARD or NRDS process.

One of the challenges is that there are many stakeholders in the rice subsector that are not well coordinated and this can lead to duplication or implementation of conflicting approaches.

A big challenge is also the constraints identified along all steps of rice value chain that request to mobilize many funds to be addressed.

To address those challenges, there is a need for a stronger coordination and harmonization of approaches and that is one activity I will be expected to work on as the Technical Coordinator. As for the priority interventions, main focus should be put on rice varieties selection and improvement of best post harvest practices.

Expectation to the Course:

My expectation to the course is to get experiences from Japan on how to address the constraints that is facing the rice value chain in Rwanda.