

## INCEPTION NOTE

**For the workshop/training in Japan – August 26 – September 29, 2012**

### **1. Basic Information**

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**POSITION:** Research Officer III, Rokupr Agricultural Research Centre (RARC)

### **2) Current Situation concerning CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development) and NRDS (National Rice Development Strategy) in Sierra Leone**

#### **NATIONAL RICE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

While climatic conditions are generally favourable for crop production including rice, biotic and abiotic factors such as diseases, pests, low soil fertility, in addition to the use of low yielding local varieties, poor extension services, and several socio-economic factors are considered to be limiting farmers' productivity. Also, most small holder farmer's yield is greatly reduced by post harvest losses due to poor crop management, inappropriate storage and marketing facilities. The form of agriculture practiced by the vast majority of Sierra Leonean farmers is very rudimentary. Fewer than five percent of the households have access to fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and basic machinery which are resources that could help enhance rice production. Rice is cultivated in both the upland and diverse lowland ecologies (Inland Valley Swamps, Bolilands, Mangrove Swamps and Riverain Grasslands). Rice yield in the upland is however generally lower than in the lowlands.

Since Sierra Leone's independence, agricultural development policy has been focussed on the achievement of rice self-sufficiency among other objectives. Major interventions in the sector have included both direct government participation and indirectly, through the donor-funded integrated agricultural/rural development projects. All of these interventions targeted small-holder farmers, who constitute approximately 90% of the farmer population. The performances of the various interventions were generally disappointing and during the last two decades, the overall performance of the agricultural sector has been poor.

The clear lesson from all the past failures is that government interventions in agricultural production and marketing is very problematic, Government must therefore restrict its interventions to broad policy formulation and stimulation and support to private sector engagement in production and marketing. All government programmes require sound planning, allocation of appropriate roles to various stakeholders, good management of appropriate institutions and resources and exit strategies from time bound projects are crucial for development of the agricultural sector including the rice sub sector.

Sierra Leone requires about 530,000 mt of milled rice to meet the consumption needs of the population annually. National Paddy Rice Production was projected at 638,000mt in 2007. The level of rice self-sufficiency rose from 57.45 percent in 2002, to 69 percent in 2005 and then to 71 percent in 2007. The remainder must be imported at increasingly expensive prices in the current situation of high prices for food including rice. International nominal prices of all major food commodities reached, in the first three months of 2008. The price of rice, the main staple food in Sierra Leone has seen a steady increase by more than 50% on average in the entire country. Most affected by this recent food price inflation, are the low-income urban and peri-urban households and smallholder food deficit. Female and elderly headed households are the most destitute. The promotion of domestic rice production is therefore a key element in the strategies for improving food security, stimulate economic growth and increase rural income. Efforts to support rice production programmes is the only solution to pull the country out of the worsening rice situation and reverse the present declining trend in food self-sufficiency.

The goal of the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) is to lay out a framework for significant increases in rice production in order to contribute to the improvement of food security and economic development in Sierra Leone. The specific objectives are to:

1. Ensure an increase in the sustainable productivity and production of rice in Sierra Leone
2. Promote appropriate post harvest handling, processing and marketing of rice
3. Develop appropriate infrastructure for rice production and marketing
4. Improve the capacity of stakeholders and institutions involved in rice sector

The strategy for increasing rice production is two pronged: (a) increase in area cultivated, mainly in the lowlands where there is much underutilised capacity, and (b) increases in productivity per unit area in all ecosystems. Area expansion will mainly be in the IVS due to its existence in all parts of the country coupled with its potential for sustainable production. The Government's goal is to achieve rice self sufficiency by 2013. This strategy targets a land area of 830,000 ha and an increase in the average rice yield/ha to 2 mt/ha to realise the government's goal of rice self sufficiency. Furthermore, an extension of the area to 1,100,000 ha over the following years, coupled with an increase in the average yield of rice to 4 mt/ha (ranging from 1.5 mt/ha in the uplands to 4.0 mt/ha in the IVS) is expected to result in the production of over 3 million tons of rice in 2018.

Increasing productivity of rice and expanding the area under the crop in Sierra Leone with the aim of significantly increasing rice production in the country will require considerable improvement in the existing infrastructure, agricultural services in addition to appropriate

coordination and management. The following key interventions will be required to impact positively on rice production in Sierra Leone:

1. Rehabilitation and construction of feeder roads in key locations that will facilitate access to rice growing areas for easy supply of inputs and evacuation of produce; as well as inland valley development and community water shed management.
2. Provision of community service infrastructure including construction of farm markets centres, daily retain markets, irrigation schemes; post harvest processing of produce at on farm and village level including drying floors and crop store, rice hulling and milling machines.
3. Efficient provision of agricultural services particularly the development and dissemination of appropriate rice technologies along the entire value chain as well as collection of reliable data.
4. Provision of credit to small farmers, input suppliers and marketers

Sierra Leone is still recovering form the massive destruction of its economic base during the civil war. Implementing these programmes to ensure the delivery of the expected results will definitely need adequate support from donors to complement the efforts of the Government.

## LIST OF RICE RELATED PROJECTS IN SIERRA LEONE

Based on the data base obtained to date, there are 27 rice- related projects in Sierra Leone

Code	Title	Partners
SL-1	Agricultural Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASREP)	AfDB
SL-2	Rehabilitation and community-based poverty reduction project (RCPRP)	IFAD
SL-3	Rural Finance and Community Improvement Programme	IFAD
SL-4	Agricultural Development Project in Kambia	JICA
SL-5	Use of STABEX Transfers Project (USTP)	EC
SL-6	LINKS Projects by CORAD	USAID / CRS
SL-7	Hybrid Rice Promotion	China
SL-8	Program for the intensification of rice production	Government of Sierra Leone
SL-9	NERICA Dissemination Project	AfDB
SL-10	Purchase for Progress (P4P)	WFP
SL-11	Seed Enterprise Enhancement and Development (SEED)	FAO / Germany
SL-12	Rural Development and Private Sector Development	WORLD BANK
SL-13	Sustainable Rice Development Project	JICA
SL-14	NERICA rice dissemination project	AFRICA RICE

SL-15	Emergency Rice Project	AFRICA RICE
SL-16	Developing the next generation of new rice varieties for sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia	AFRICA RICE
SL-17	Interspecific Hybridization Project	AFRICA RICE
SL-18	Physiological and genetic investigation of agronomic characteristics in rice	AFRICA RICE
SL-19	Enhancing smallholder access to NERICA in WCA	AFRICA RICE
SL-20	Rice Value Chain Development Project	CARE
SL-21	Peri and Urban Community Action for Food Security	CONCERN / CADO
SL-22	Livelihood Expansion and Asset Development Project	CRS
SL-23	Integrated Savings and Agricultural Development Project	CRS
SL-24	Food Facility Project	COOPI
SL-25	NERICA Adoption Project	IPA
SL-26	Sustainable Agricultural Development Project	CARE
SL-27	Conservative Agricultural Development Project	CARE
	SL -28 West Africa Agricultural Productivity Project	SLARI

Rice Sub -sector Intervention Element Matrix

Sierra Leone	Policy / institutional	Infrastructure	Human resource capacity	Provision / support	Information / knowledge	Unclassified
Seed	SL11(2,3)	SL5(3); SL11(3)	SL14(1); SL15(1) SL16(1); SL17(1) SL18(1);	SL5(2); SL7 (1) SL8(1); SL9 SL11(1); SL21(1), SL34 (2), SL 26 (2), SL27(1)	SL6(5); SL9	
Fertilizer		SL6(6)				
Irrigation / water management		SL6(2);	SL 26(1)		SL24 (1), SL 25, SL 27(2)	
On-farm technology dissem.	SL12(1)	SL1(3)	SL1(4,5); SL2(1,2) SL4; SL6(3,4); SL 23 (1)	SL5(2)	SL7(2); SL24 (1), SL 25, SL 27(2)	
Mechanization				SL6(7);	SL 22(1), SL 23 (2)	SL8(2)
Quality improvement		SL5(3); SL 22(2); SL 20(1);	SL19(1); SL 20 (2)	SL 24 (3)		SL7(3); SL10(2)
Access to market		SL1(1,2); SL5(4); SL 22(3)	SL22(3)	SL12(3); SL 22(4)		

<b>Access to credit</b>				<b>SL3;</b>		
<b>Overall policy tools</b>				<b>SL12(2)</b>		
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>SL2(3)</b>	<b>SL2(4); SL6(1)</b>	<b>SL5(5);</b>	<b>SL5(6); SL11(1)</b>	<b>SL12(4)</b>	

### National Rice Sub-Sector Priority Setting

<b>High priority</b>		<b>Medium priority</b>		<b>Low priority</b>	
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Sierra Leone	Policy / institutional	Infrastructure	Human resource capacity	Provision / support	Information / knowledge
Seed					
Fertilizer					
Irrigation / water management					
On-farm know-how dissem.					
Mechanization					
Quality improvement					
Access to market					
Access to credit					
Overall policy tools					

### List of Priority Projects and alignment to SCP and CAADP

NRDS priority Projects	SCP - Smallholder Commercialization	CAADP
1. Development of infrastructure for access to market	<u>Component 1</u> : Smallholder Commercialization: production intensification, diversification, value addition and marketing <u>Component 3</u> : Market Access Expansion through Feeder Road Rehabilitation	
2. Development of infrastructure for quality improvement	<u>Component 1</u> : Smallholder Commercialization: production intensification, diversification, value addition and marketing	
3.Rehabilitation and development of inland valley swamp (IVS) and the Bolilands	<u>Component 2</u> : Small scale irrigation development	
4.Support to farmer based organisations in the form of capacity building .	<u>Component 1</u> : Smallholder Commercialization: production intensification, diversification, value addition and marketing	
5.Provision of inputs and farm machinery	<u>Component 1</u> : Smallholder Commercialization: production intensification, diversification, value addition and marketing.	
6. Production of suitable planting materials	<u>Component 1</u> : Smallholder Commercialization: production intensification, diversification, value addition and marketing	
7. Support to rural financial services associations and community banks	<u>Component 4</u> : Smallholder Access to Rural Financial Services	
8. Human resource development	Component 6:	

### **List of concept notes**

1. Development of Infrastructure for Access to Market
2. Development of infrastructure for quality improvement
3. Rehabilitation and development of inland valley swamp (IVS) and the Bolilands
4. Support to farmer based organisations in the form of capacity building
5. Provision of inputs and farm machinery
6. Production of suitable planting materials
7. Support to rural financial services associations and community banks
8. Human resource development

Organizations involved in CARD initiative and NRDS process

#### **NRDS CORE MEMBERS**

- 1) Dr. Idriss Baggie, SLARI
- 2) Mr. B. A. Massaquoi, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)
- 3) Mr. Sid M. Kamara, MAFFS
- 4) Dr. Denis Taylor, SLARI
- 5) Mr. Peter Kamara, MAFFS
- 6) Mr. Prince Kamara
- 7) Mr. Hassan Jalloh, SLARI

#### **NRDS Full Members**

- 1) Dr. Idriss Baggie, SLARI
- 2) Mr. B. A. Massaquoi, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)
- 3) Mr. Sid M. Kamara, MAFFS
- 4) Dr. Denis Taylor, SLARI
- 5) Mr. Peter Kamara, MAFFS

- 6) Mr. Prince Kamara
- 7) Dr. M. Shamie – Crop Protection Unit
- 8) Mr. A. Nannoh, Agricultural Investment Company/ Chamber of Commerce
- 9) Representative, Ministry of Trade
- 10) Representatives, Njala Agricultural Research Centre (NARC)
- 11) Mr. B. J. Bangura, MAFFS
- 12) Representatives, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource

#### **4 Duties of Your Organization/Department and Yourself**

The function of my organization is mainly to undertake agricultural research activities for development in Sierra Leone. With respect to the NRDS, The organization is responsible of organizing all activities of the NRDS

My Department is responsible to undertake agricultural research and development activities in Sierra Leone with emphasis on rice. The department was until recently referred to as The Rice Research Station. SLARI is the major partner and implementing partner and focal point of all NRDS activities.

I am involved as the Stakeholder in implementing all NRDS in country activities in Sierra Leone, as core Task Force member.

#### **Challenges of CARD or NRDS process**

One major challenge is to get members during the full member meeting and it will be minimised if some incentive is given as transport fare or fuel.

It is expected that standard procedures will be set for implementation in all participating countries.