

**The 16th Steering Committee Meeting of
The Coalition for African Rice Development
30th September 2020
9:00 am to 12:00 pm GMT**

CONCEPT NOTE

<Introduction>

The previous General Assembly Meeting (GM) of CARD stakeholders, which was the last GM of CARD phase 1, confirmed that various activities of the member countries and support from all the CARD partners in the phase 1 (2008-2018) had made a significant impact on the total rice production in Sub-Sahara Africa; and that it helped attain the overall goal of CARD (doubling rice production to 28 million metric tons in 2018). It was noted that the rice consumption in Africa was, however, increasing at a faster pace than that of the local production, thus widening the demand-supply gap. Therefore, outcomes of performance at the country level were mixed. The Meeting decided that there remains a need for increased investments and stronger policy measures to close this gap in order to make Africa rice self-sufficient and that CARD together with its partners shall continue pursuing its support to the governments of its member countries.

In this regard, the CARD Initiative entered its 2nd phase from January 2019 with a renewed target of further doubling rice production in sub-Saharan Africa. During the first year of the current phase, great progress has been made by the 32 sub-Saharan African member countries. This includes the revision of National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) in the original 23 member countries and NRDS formulation process in the 9 countries which newly joined in the initiative in this phase.

Under the second phase, CARD has adopted a “RICE” approach which is composed of the four elements; Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness and Empowerment, while maintaining the crosscutting approaches such as value chain development, capacity building and partnerships with private sector.

The 8th CARD General Meeting and 16th Steering Committee Meeting that were planned in June 2020 were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the General

Meeting is now rescheduled to 2021, the Steering Committee Meeting is to be held online from respective working places of the members.

In the previous SC meeting (15th SC meeting) held in June 2019, the members mainly discussed on the following topics;

1. Integration of RECs into CARD activities,
2. Launching of the CARD Phase2 at the TICAD 7 side event in Yokohama, Japan,
3. Extending SC membership to IsDB,
4. Annual plan of 2019/2020, and
5. Planning for the 8th CARD General meeting.

Regarding the involvement of RECs; after consulting with each RECs directly or through AUDA-NEPAD, the Secretariat became certain of their commitment and therefore the Secretariat, in August 2019, sent an official invitation to them to join the SC meeting.

The launching of CARD2 was successfully done in Yokohama at the sideline of the TICAD7 meeting, participated by the Agriculture Ministers of Madagascar and Senegal, Dr. Mayaki, CEO AUDA-NEPAD, Dr. Dongyu, DG FAO, Dr. Roy-Macaulay, DG AfricaRice, Dr. Morell, DG IRRI, Dr. Kato, Sr. VP JICA, and representatives from all SC members. Japanese private companies also actively participated showing their strong commitment to expand their business in the years to come under the CARD initiative.

We, during the last meeting also confirmed the extension of SC membership to Islamic Development Bank, while noting their great contribution so far to the development of rice sector in various parts of Africa and particularly in West Africa through their Regional Rice Value Chain Development Project.

Annual plan for 2019/20 presented at the meeting included; 1) preparation of CARD2 launching ceremony at TICAD7 side event, 2) kick-starting of CARD regional training on the African continent, 3) commencing collaborative works with selected RECs, 4) continuing support in formulation of NRDS in each member country, and 5) preparation of the 8th General Meeting in Abidjan. All these were duly attended by the Secretariat and the progress will be shared in the 16th SC meeting.

As for the 8th General Meeting, preparatory works with Agence pour le Développement de la filière RIZ (ADERIZ) and Ministry of Rice Promotion (MRP) in Côte

d'Ivoire progressed and invitation letters to all stakeholders were prepared in March but we decided not to send them out due to the COVID-19 situation.

In this context, we now hold the 16th CARD Steering Committee meeting to share and discuss the progress made in the past 15 months and our planned activities for 2020/21, with special attention over our responses to the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the rice sector in Africa.

The expected outputs of the meeting are as follows:

- progress made so far shared
- ideas over CARD M&E framework shared
- consensus on 8th General Meeting in 2021 and CARD Webinar in 2020
- annual plan for 2020/21 shared
- SC membership finalized

For this purpose, the Secretariat suggests the agenda below. The 16th SC meeting is to be chaired by AUDA-NEPAD following our usual practice of chairing a consecutive two meetings, normally SC and GM. We have no co-chair for this meeting considering its short nature. It is expected for 3 hours starting from 9:00 to 12:00 Greenwich Mean Time.

9:00-9:05	Announcement	CARD Secretariat
9:05-9:10	Introduction by Chair	Dr. Ibrahim Gourouza, Grow Africa
9:10-9:20	Opening remarks by President of AGRA, (Director, CARD Secretariat)	Dr. Agnes Kalibata, AGRA
9:20-9:50	Update from the Secretariat - Progress in NRDS/RRDS process - Collaboration among SC members - COVID-19 response by CARD Secretariat - CARD M&E framework - IFAD funding to CARD Secretariat	CARD Secretariat

9:50- 11:20	Update on support provided to CARD-related activities from each SC member	Each SC member
11:20- 11:30	Planning for GM8 (timing and mode of the meeting)	JICA
11:30 11:40	CARD Annual plan and budget for 2020/21	CARD Secretariat
11:40- 11:50	SC membership (AATF's interest)	CARD Secretariat All
11:50- 12:00	Closing remarks by Vice President of JICA	Mr. Tadashi Sato, JICA

For “Update of support provided to CARD activities from each SC member”, only 5 minutes can be available for each organization considering the time constraint and the number of SC members present. This is, therefore, a very short brief about the CARD-related support activities done in the year 2019/20 as well as future-planned activities. The Secretariat would like to have one-page slide of PowerPoint from each organization for this purpose. During the online meeting, the PowerPoint slide will be shown on the screen coinciding with the speakers.