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## **Minutes of Fourteenth Steering Committee Meeting (SC14) Tokyo, Japan, 04 October 2018**

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The members of the steering committee (SC) of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) met after the conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of stakeholders of CARD on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was attended by representatives of AfricaRice, African Development Bank (AfDB), Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan International Research Center for Agriculture Sciences (JIRCAS), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), and the World Bank. Representatives from World Food Program (WFP) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) also participated in the meeting since the preceding 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting endorsed the extension of the SC membership to WFP and RECs. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative to Africa and Dr. Bouchaib Boulanouar, Partnership Coordinator of AfDB.

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives of the SC14 meeting were to; (i) brief the SC members on the contents of the high-level meeting on CARD organized for Japanese and African policy makers, (ii) outline the program for a side event on CARD at the TICAD VII; and (iii) apprise the management and operational guidelines for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of CARD.

### **Approval of minutes of SC13**

Following the opening remarks, the Co-Chair proposed to discuss the management of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the CARD first, which was approved by the members. Instead, the approval of the minutes of SC13 was skipped. Therefore, the meeting decided to go through the approval process electronically after SC14.

### **High-level meeting on CARD**

The representative of JICA briefed the meeting on a high-level meeting of Japan-African Union Parliamentary friendship association on CARD that was to be held on the following day of the SC14 and GM7. The high-level meeting will include a panel discussion on the achievements and challenges of the CARD and future promotion of the rice sector through the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the CARD. The SC members appreciated JICA's efforts in this regard and expressed hope that the high-level meeting will facilitate a political buy-in and inject the agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of CARD into the planning of the TICAD VII.

### **Management of the CARD 2nd Phase**

The CARD Secretariat presented the management structure and operational guidelines that were endorsed by the stakeholders at the first General Meeting of the CARD on 29<sup>th</sup> October of 2008 and requested the present SC members to review and update as necessary. The SC suggested editing of terminologies and phrases under several clauses, and the discussions covered substantive points such as the scope of CARD, categories of stakeholders and functions of each part of CARD structure.

The meeting agreed that the CARD Secretariat will revise the guideline based on all the discussions and consensus made in SC14, and circulate the revised version of the guidelines for perusal by the SC members. (The draft of the revised guideline is attached as an Annex)

#### Expansion of the SC (RECs)

Following the endorsement of the WFP as a new member by the General Assembly; the present members welcomed WFP into the fold. Regarding the induction of the RECs into the CARD SC, the members agreed to hold further discussions. At the 13th CARD SC meeting, the SC members proposed expansion of SC membership by including representations from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the private sector. Subsequently, the CARD Secretariat communicated with several RECs to ascertain their willingness. Though the preceding 7th General Meeting basically approved the SC membership to be extended to the RECs, the meeting requested the Steering Committee to further discuss this proposal, especially the way to incorporate them into the SC. While acknowledging the important roles of the RECs in developing the rice industry and rice trade in CARD member countries, some SC members wanted to seek clarifications from the interested RECs on what contributions they could make towards the CARD's objective of doubling the rice production. Considering the coordination function of NEPAD for the activities of RECs, the SC members agreed to request NEPAD to consider, both internally and through interacting RECs, how best RECs can be engaged in our committee and what contributions each RECs can make, for the SC members' further discussion.

#### Side event on CARD at TICAD VII

JICA representative informed the SC members that TICAD VII will be held during 28-30 August 2019 at Yokohama, Japan; and that a side event on CARD will be organized during the TICAD VII. The SC members agreed that the CARD Secretariat shall arrange presentations on evidence-based cases of success in implementing the NRDS by the CARD member countries at the side event of TICAD VII. However, the details of the side event such as duration of event and agenda will not be fixed before May to June of the year 2019. Therefore, the Secretariat will design the side event program along with the fixture of the details of the event, and seek the consensus among the SC members electronically.

#### Other businesses

- Under the customary practice of rotation of the co-chairs; the SC members agreed to propose that NEPAD will replace FAO as a new co-chair for the SC. The representative from NEPAD was requested to transmit this proposal to his institution.
- JICA highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity of the CARD Secretariat under the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of CARD, and invited the other SC members to contribute to the operation of the CARD Secretariat.
- The SC members agreed to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> SC meeting during the TICAD VII in Japan, in August 2019.
- The SC members tentatively agreed that the 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting shall be organized in around September 2020. The timing will be adjusted as the date gets closer.