



CARD

MEETING REPORT

THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF
THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN RICE DEVELOPMENT

TOKYO, 3 – 4 JUNE 2009

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**THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF
THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN RICE DEVELOPMENT
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opening

The city of Tokyo hosted the Second General Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) on 3–4 June 2009 under the joint chairmanship of Mr Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice-president of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Dr Namanga Ngongi, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The keynote address was delivered by Mrs Sadako Ogata, President of JICA, and Mr Kofi Annan, President of AGRA. Participants included delegates from the 'first group' of 12 sub-Saharan African countries approved at CARD's First General Meeting, observers from two Sub Sahara African countries, the secretariat of the Mano River Union, 21 organizations in the role of support partners, and six Asian countries, Brazil and Egypt as South-South cooperation partners.

CARD progress brief by the CARD Secretariat

Following the First CARD General Meeting in October 2008 and the establishment that month of the CARD Secretariat, the first group of 12 CARD countries – Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda – developed their national rice development strategies (NRDS). JICA also carried out a study in these countries of on-going and previously-completed rice-related projects supported by development partners. This had prepared the ground for meetings between the

NRDS working groups, their governments and development partners to discuss implementation of national strategies.

Presentation of National Rice Development Strategies by the first group of countries

Delegates from the 12 first group countries presented their National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS). Each of them put forward strong arguments for developing the rice sub sectors in their countries based on sound evidence and rational choice of development opportunities. While the documents needed some improvement, particularly on prioritization and on the detail of sub-sector activities, they were considered to be sufficiently advanced to allow governments and their development partners to focus on the most urgent actions needed to realize each country's rice production potential.

Comments on the NRDS by the CARD Secretariat Technical Working Group

All the 12 NRDS documents underwent technical analysis by the CARD Secretariat Technical Working Group and consolidated the comments as follows:

- Rice is an important staple food in all of the 12 countries out of which 10 are endeavoring to be self-sufficient by 2018. Madagascar, Mali, Tanzania and Sierra Leone also aim to become net exporters of rice. The projected production gains through the NRDS are generally optimistic, with even 10 fold increases. On average, countries propose to triple yields over the next 10 years.
- Among the 12 countries, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania mainly focus on irrigated systems, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Uganda mainly rainfed lowland systems, and Cameroon and Guinea mainly upland systems. The projected production increases will be obtained through a combination of expansion of harvested area and intensification. While the targeted yields are optimistic they seem to be generally attainable, some countries are clearly over-optimistic with respect to expansion targets, especially for the irrigated areas.
- The NRDS acknowledged a number of constraints to be overcome such as lack of access to loans and unsuitable land tenure institutions. Women generally face greater difficulty than men to access land, inputs, credit, technologies, but the NRDS are mostly silent about how such constraints

can be overcome and how women can play a more significant role in rice value chains.

- The projected seed needs are in most cases over-estimated, with some countries assuming that all seed to be produced will be of certified quality. Seed systems are clearly an area that needs support.
- The requirement to invest in building new and rehabilitating existing irrigation infrastructures was underlined but without fully addressing issues of ownership, operation and maintenance. In order to direct appropriate investment, it is important to harmonize policies, to improve marketing, input supplies, mechanization, seed production, post-harvest handling and to take account of consumer preference. While each NRDS recognized that action had to be taken to improve human capacity, none of them explained how this should be done.
- Cross-border issues such as water catchments, international rice trading, seed policies and mechanisms for subsidizing and making fertilizers available had been treated in isolation but need to be tackled at the regional level.

Discussion on the NRDS

The Meeting recognized and appreciated the effort made by each country and the help given by the Coalition in preparing the NRDS within a limited time-frame but advised that the NRDS should still be treated as evolving documents. They were ready for use by the countries and development partners even as they continue to be sharpened for establishing priorities and defining approaches. It was argued that the NRDS should be more explicit about the short, medium and long-term costs of implementation as a basis for formulating viable financing plans.

Discussion focused also on the question of aligning the NRDS with the development frameworks that are in place at national and regional levels. The CARD Initiative had been taken to ensure that the NRDS priorities would be properly reflected in the major development documents such as the policy reduction strategy papers (PSRP), strategies for developing the national agricultural sectors and national and regional Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compacts so that they would be eligible for both development aid and domestic financing.

This point led to another crucial recommendation regarding the implementation/governance structure for the NRDS to take into account that many activities will fall outside the scope of the Ministries of Agriculture. The Meeting called for the inclusion and involvement of all concerned ministries at national and international levels to ensure full country ownership that will enable efficient implementation of the NRDS.

The importance of real examples and lessons drawn from previous interventions, including the Asian Green Revolution, for evolving national and regional rice development plans and strategy documents was emphasized during the discussion.

Key points concerning the sub-sectors which were picked out and well received by the participants included:

- production of quality seed is a fundamental requirement which must involve a mixture of private and community seed producers
- guaranteed access to fertilizers is equally important but the lesson drawn from the Asian Green Revolution is that it is unwise to concentrate only on chemical fertilizers so farmers need advice on the use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers
- repair and maintenance of infrastructure must be included in the management and use of water schemes
- a strong research component is needed to assure the achievement of expected yield increases and to enable the management of biotic stresses
- sustainable 'smart' subsidies are required that will encourage the private sector but also have exit strategies that will enable farmers to carry on without support
- opportunities exist for large farm businesses, both locally- and foreign-owned, but these are not addressed by the NRDS
- poverty reduction and food security goals should be attainable, and even helped, by not restricting rice production only to smallholders
- CARD's human capacity development strategy must go beyond the simple training of individuals to include improvement in the way trainees will be

employed. It must also consider the gender dimension as women form a large part of the workforce.

Development Partners' approach to African rice development

Presentations were made by NEPAD, IRRI/WARDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, JICA, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, USAID, UNDP, AGRA, FAO, IFAD, WFP and IWMI all of which confirmed their strong support for the CARD Initiative. The exchange on rice-related interventions by these development partners stimulated the participants to recognize that each partner has its own unique functions and roles to play in the value chains, and therefore good partner coordination, with a sound distribution of functions based on a rational division of labor, would raise the impact on rice sector development in a more efficient and effective manner. The Meeting was informed that this would be facilitated through the next round of the CARD Initiative when the needs-to-resources matching exercise takes place later in the year.

Other development partner recommendations included:

- more dialogue at both national and the headquarters' levels to harmonize support for the implementation of the NRDS
- evidence-based advocacy to ensure that African rice development gets its 'fair share' in the Development Partners' cooperation strategies
- a more comprehensive information system extending to the village level should be established to capture and share information among stakeholders. The development partners could contribute to building public-private partnerships for information and advisory services
- there is need for more thought to be given to energy issues including mechanization of cultivation and post-harvest actions. CARD can help catalyze innovative technologies, especially for communities that are off the power grid.

South-South Cooperation for African rice development

The delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Egypt and Brazil set out the rice-related strengths of their countries and what they could bring to cooperation within Africa. Their experience, particularly in capacity

building, technology transfer and management of pilots and demonstrations, will add value to the planning and implementation of rice sector development in sub-Saharan Africa. The Meeting equally felt that such collaboration should be well focused and based on the comparative advantage of each partner, and also insisted on equal emphasis on scientists, experts and trainers being sent to sub-Saharan Africa as on the training of personnel from sub-Saharan Africa outside their home countries. Furthermore, the contributors to the debate took note of the need for the support of development partners to be able to fully exploit the potential of these South-South partners.

Next steps

After the presentations and deliberations stated above, the Meeting determined to maintain the momentum of the CARD Initiative and recommended the following actions.

- The CARD Initiative shall immediately assist each of first group countries to establish coordination mechanisms, building on existing institutional frameworks, for the implementation of the NRDS. This includes not only the coordination of rice-related interventions by relevant stakeholders, but also coordination for ensuring the alignment of NRDS to relevant development and finance frameworks, including CAADP and PRSPs to get political buy-in and adequate financing for rice-related investment.
- At regional level, actions should be taken to identify areas of value-adding intervention and modalities.
- As a first step towards implementation of the NRDS, the above-mentioned coordination mechanisms must:
 - carry out a detailed reconciliation of the needs and resources to identify the gaps and priority zones for immediate intervention;
 - refine the NRDS to take more explicit account of previous experience, and;
 - consult with stakeholders to coordinate and harmonize support measures while paying particular attention to capacity building
- South-South cooperation and modalities for supporting cooperation from countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa must be encouraged and facilitated by the Secretariat in collaboration with the interested countries and institutions.

- The CARD Secretariat should establish a CARD information system and web page without delay.

Other business

The Meeting endorsed the proposal of the Steering Committee, which had met on the eve of the event, to include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank as new Steering Committee members in addition to eight existing members (Africa Rice Center (WARDA), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)).

Regarding information sharing, the 'first group' of CARD countries agreed to have their NRDS widely distributed, while development partners present at the meeting agreed that the information shown in the report 'Baseline Survey on Rice-related Projects in sub-Saharan Africa' could be made accessible to the public.

The participants also agreed that the next CARD General Meeting will be held within one year and the next Steering Committee tentatively in November 2009.

The Chair's concluding statement

Mr. Oshima from the Chair stated that this was probably the first time that all the diverse stakeholders had met face to face. Their positive interactions had made it clear that there is great potential and willingness for collaboration from which both sides will gain, not just the Africans. This will have to be supported by the donors. JICA has set a good example with its support for South-South collaboration and it hopes that other donors will follow its example.



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MEETING REPORT

1. Introduction

The Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) is a consultative group of bi- and multilateral donors, and regional and international organizations working in collaboration with rice-producing African countries. Its goal is to support the efforts of African countries to double rice production on the Continent to 28 million tons per annum within 10 years, i.e. by 2018.

CARD is coordinated by a small secretariat hosted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in Nairobi, Kenya. It was established as an outcome of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV, 28–30 May, 2008, Yokohama, Japan), and has been supported by JICA in partnership with AGRA, the Forum of Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Africa Rice Centre (WARDA) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Other collaborating parties include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank.

CARD's first general meeting was held on 29–30 October 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was followed by the establishment of the CARD secretariat which supported 12 sub-Saharan CARD Priority Countries, i.e. Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda in developing National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS). CARD also

supported scoping studies to determine what rice development programs and projects were already underway in these countries so as to determine the gaps that still needed filling to complete the priority actions identified in the NRDS.

This document reports the outcomes of CARD's 2nd General Meeting held in Tokyo on 3–4 June 2009 to review the status of CARD and provide direction for the ensuing year up to the 3rd General Meeting in 2010.

The 2nd General Meeting was attended by delegates from the 12 first-group countries as well as delegates from two observer countries, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and from the Secretariat of the Mano River Union. It was also joined by 140 delegates from supporting partners of the initiative as well as representatives from seven countries from Asia, North Africa and South America, i.e. Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, that had expressed interest in contributing to South-South collaboration.

The Meeting discussed presentations of four main topics:

1. CARD progress report by the CARD Secretariat
2. National Rice Development Strategies
3. Development Partners' approaches to rice development in Africa
4. South-South collaboration in rice development in Africa

It concluded with discussion on the way forward and next steps, and with the Co-Chairs' concluding remarks.

2. Opening

Mr Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President of JICA, acting on the recommendation of the Steering Committee, sought and obtained approval for JICA and AGRA to co-chair the meeting. Dr Namanga Ngongi, President of AGRA, then joined with him in chairing the meeting. They invited JICA President, Madam Sadako Ogata, and AGRA Chairman, Mr Kofi Annan, to address the meeting.

Madam Ogata, President of JICA

Madam Ogata welcomed the delegates on behalf of JICA, and drew attention to the past and present outstanding contributions of Mr Kofi Annan to African food security issues, and particularly as chair of AGRA. She welcomed the five Asian countries, and also Brazil and Egypt, which together formed a 'Southern' presence enabling CARD partners to span three continents. Madam Ogata praised CARD for its progress since its 1st General Meeting and in particular the development of the 12 NRDS in a relatively short space of time. She urged all parties to continue moving CARD forward with determination to produce tangible results. She noted that the global financial crisis was having severe detrimental effects on the poor in Africa and reassured the Meeting that in spite of its own economic problems Japan will keep the promises it made at TICAD IV to continue to play its part in alleviating poverty.

Finally, Madam Ogata said that the Memorandum of Understanding which had been signed just that morning between JICA and AGRA demonstrated JICA's commitment to CARD, its full support for Africa's Green Revolution, and its determination to maintain a strong working relationship between the two organizations.

Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of AGRA

Mr Kofi Annan thanked Madam Ogata and the co-chairs, and praised CARD's objective to assist African smallholder farmers to double their rice production. The fast growth in demand for rice in Africa, as well as the upward trend in food prices in general, had created a worldwide need to produce more food. He was therefore happy to see so many rice producing countries participating in the meeting. He

noted that although there were many substantial needs, such as for more scientists and improved inputs (especially improved seeds), there were already existing technologies which, if applied, could make a huge difference. Working closely with farmers to apply the products of public research would bring about great improvements in food security. NERICA, as one example, could be a platform for such change.

Mr Annan particularly welcomed the opportunities that would be opened up by increased South-South cooperation. He also urged CARD members to remember that most African rice producers are women and yet their needs have often been neglected. This was unfortunately reflected in the poor representation of women at the meeting which he hoped would be rectified in future.

3. CARD progress report

Mr Hiroshi Hiraoka, Coordinator CARD Secretariat

Mr Hiraoka reported on CARD's progress and achievements since the 1st General Meeting held in Nairobi in July 2008. He congratulated the 12 first-group countries for completing their NRDS, thereby moving CARD forward into resource mobilization. Following the first General Meeting, the 12 priority countries prepared first draft NRDS which were reviewed at an NRDS development workshop at the Africa Rice Center in Cotonou, Benin. With the advice received at the workshop, which included rigorous peer review of each country's NRDS by other countries, the NRDS had been revised and finalized for sharing with CARD Development Partners at this meeting.

A study of work already being undertaken by Supporting Partners in the 12 first-group countries had also been completed and distributed to participants on CD-ROM. It had identified more than 250 ongoing and recently-completed projects, which indicated a lot of support for African rice development.

Mr Hiraoka gratefully acknowledged the support that had been provided to CARD by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and others.

The next stage would be to ensure that those priorities identified in the NRDS, but not already covered by ongoing projects, will be eligible for support from Development Partners by ensuring that they were consistent with government priorities set out in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and National Development Strategies (NDS), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and other relevant frameworks. This would enable CARD to move from planning to implementation.

4. Presentation of National Rice Development Strategies

Presentations on the progress in advancing their NRDS were made by the following representatives (in order of their presentations) from each of the 12 priority countries¹.

1. Kenya Dr Johnson Irungu Waithaka

Recent years have seen rice grow in importance in Kenya as per capita consumption, particularly in urban areas, has increased far more rapidly than for other cereal crops. National rice production, most of which comes from irrigated paddies established by the Government, stood at 47,256 tons in 2007 against a consumption of 293,722 tons. The NRDS was prepared in line with overarching strategy documents, i.e. Vision 2030, the draft National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and the current Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture.

With the goal of achieving rice self-sufficiency by 2030, the target rice production in Kenya for 2018 is set at 178,139 tons and about 80% of the required increase will be derived from the expansion/rehabilitation of irrigated rice production. The main thrust of the planned rice development addresses: technical issues; farm inputs and equipment; credit support; infrastructure; and market structure improvement. The National Rice Stakeholders Forum (NRSF) will be established to set priorities and to implement interventions identified in the NRDS.

2. Tanzania Mr Emmanuel Achayo

The per capita consumption of rice in Tanzania, which had a total population of 40 million people in 2008 and an annual growth rate of 2.8%, has gradually increased from 20.5 kg in 1998 to 25.8 kg in 2008. Annual consumption of milled rice was about 1,000,000 tons in 2008 with a self-sufficiency ratio of 84.5%. The annual production of milled rice in the last decade ranged between 530,000 and 851,000 tons. In order to fill the shortfall, 50,000 to 100,000 tons of milled rice was imported in 2001–2005 at a cost of about US\$ 130 million. The

¹ All the presentations are available on CD-ROM from the CARD Secretariat

total area under rice cultivation increased from 490,000 ha in 1998 to 665,000 ha in 2007, of which 90% is managed by small-scale farmers with holdings of 0.5 to 3.0 ha of land each. Tanzania's productivity did not change much and varied from 1.0 to 1.2 t/ha (equivalent to 1.6 to 1.8 t/ha of paddy).

The targets for 2018 are set at 1,963,000 tons from 695,000 ha at an average yield of 2.8 t/ha. It is proposed to expand the irrigated area from 200,000 ha in 2008 to 390,000 ha in 2018. The NRDS aims to improve farmers' access to improved varieties and seed systems; enhance fertilizer marketing and distribution; accelerate irrigation development and investment in water control technologies; facilitate access to and maintenance of agricultural machinery and equipment; promote the use of medium-size machines; facilitate access to credit/agricultural finance; establish credit guarantee schemes and an Agricultural Bank; facilitate farmers in forming associations; develop capacity in research and technology dissemination; and so forth.

3. Senegal Dr Seyni Ndiaye

National rice production accounted for just 20% of the 800,000 tons of rice consumed in Senegal in 2007. The Government has addressed the need for a strategy for domestic rice promotion and obtained the cooperation of researchers, private sector and other concerned parties. Among development partners engaged in the rice sector, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Spanish Government FAD program and the World Bank have been actively implementing a rice-related cooperation program that includes rehabilitation of an irrigation scheme and improvement of processing/marketing technologies etc. KOICA and the World Bank have invested in Podor and the Senegal River Valley where there is verified strong potential for irrigation development.

The development goal for 2012 is to produce 1,500,000 tons of rice from 320,000 ha, mostly in irrigation schemes. Specific sub-strategies have been developed for some components such as land preparation, irrigation infrastructure, financing rice production, post-harvest and marketing equipment, etc. Governance of the NRDS involves all stakeholders from rice farmers and traders to governmental bodies with the aim of executing a comprehensive rice development program for enhancement of the rice industry in Senegal.

4. Ghana Mr Richard Twumasi-Ankrah

Rice is the second most important cereal crop after maize in Ghana and its consumption keeps increasing as a result of population growth, urbanization and change in consumer preferences. Between 1996 and 2005, paddy production was in the range of 200,000 to 280,000 tons with large annual fluctuations in the area under rice cultivation. Total rice consumption in 2005 was about 500,000 tons, equivalent to per capita consumption of 22 kg per annum. Ghana depends largely on imported rice to make up the deficit by importing an average 400,000 tons p.a. The self-sufficiency ratio of rice in Ghana has declined from 38% in 1999 to 24% in 2006.

The Ghana NRDS for the 2008 to 2018 period proposes doubling rice production taking into consideration the comparative production capacities of the three major ecologies (rainfed upland, rainfed lowland and irrigated). Over the last 10 years (1999–2008) rice per capita rice consumption increased from 17.5 kg to 38.0 kg. By 2018 it is estimated that it will grow to 63 kg as a result of rapid population growth and urbanization. Taking both population growth and increase in per capita consumption together, rice demand will increase to 1,680,000 tons by 2018.

The major constraints especially land development and land tenure arrangements, seed, fertilizer, inadequate human resource capacity, inadequate harvesting and post-harvest management technology, weak local rice marketing system and the role of Government and related agencies have been considered. Men dominate rice production in all the ecologies, although women are predominant at particular locations and in the small- to medium-scale levels of the processing and marketing sectors.

The Ghana NRDS aims to increase domestic production by 10% annually over a 10-year period, to promote consumption of local rice through quality improvement, value addition and both domestic and regional marketing, and to promote stakeholder innovation for the utilization of rice by-products while ensuring sound environmental practices.

The distribution of fertilizers, access and affordability by smallholders is

recognized as a fundamental challenge in the NRDS which proposes to involve the private sector in fertilizer blending for specific uses and to include organic sources of fertilizer where appropriate. In the longer term it is proposed to take on more extension staff with knowledge on rice and rice-based cropping systems.

5. Cameroon Mr Tobie Ondo Manga

Annual rice consumption in Cameroon stands at 37.3 kg/head/year in urban areas, 19.4 kg/head/year in rural areas and 25.7 kg/head/year as the national average and is increasing by 4% per annum. However, national production is stagnating at 65,000 tons per annum – less than 20% of the 475,000 tons demand – grown on 44,000 ha each year. The target is to increase production to 627,250 tons by 2018 to eliminate imports and to build up safety stocks.

Cameroon has the following current strategic directions: (i) rehabilitation of irrigated schemes; (ii) development of lowland and flood plains; (iii) introduction of rice growing around proposed dams; and (iv) the diversification of production systems with special emphasis on rainfed and lowland rice growing, especially in the northern areas with high rice potential.

Its NRDS aims at improving the productivity and competitiveness of local rice by: (i) support for obtaining agricultural inputs; (ii) development of new irrigable zones and the rehabilitation of the agricultural infrastructures and equipment in large-scale irrigation schemes; (iii) support for restructuring and organizing producer groups; (iv) support for processing and marketing of rice; (v) subsidized credit for buying fertilizers etc. The cost of implementing these measures is estimated at US\$ 382,000.

6. Sierra Leone Dr Abdulai Jalloh

Sierra Leone has a tradition of rice consumption that has increased in line with the urbanization of recent years until today per capita rice consumption stands at 104 kg. However, lack of mechanization and only low-input technology, coupled with an average farm size of just 1.6 ha, means that rice yields are low, and the country depends heavily on imports. Although Sierra Leone has a wide range of agro-ecological zones such as inland valley swamps, mangrove etc.,

the predominant ecology at a total area of 4,300,000 ha is that of the upland paddy fields.

In addressing the constraints caused by a multiplicity of influences, the government's agricultural policy has stressed alignment with the CAADP process. The cooperation of development partners has been particularly evident in areas such as capacity building of researchers and the provision of tractors. The production targets for 2018 are that the total production area should be 1,100,000 ha, producing a total volume of 3,100,000 tons. In particular, it should be noted that the inland valley swamps have great potential for efficient development that has not been fully exploited. A further concrete development strategy is to rehabilitate infrastructure in the rural areas, including feeder roads and local markets, and to support small-scale rice farmers with micro-credit.

7. Guinea Mr Kaba Camara

Eighty per cent of farmers (about 670,000 households) produce rice and the rice sector contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) is continually improving, reaching 6.2% by 2008. However, productivity is low and with per capita annual consumption at 100 kg in 2008 and about 300,000 tons of rice or 26% of national requirement has to be imported.

Rice is widely cultivated throughout the country in four agricultural ecosystems (rainfed, inland valleys or lowland, upland and mangrove swamp), of which the rainfed area is the largest. There are still many uncultivated areas suitable for irrigation development.

The development goal to 2018 is for gross production to reach 2,762,000 tons per annum with an average yield of 2.75 t/ha. This would provide full food security in rice. The overall estimated budget for achieving these aims is US\$ 1.3 billion. Carrying out this strategy will have enormous socioeconomic and environmental impact, such as the addition of US\$ 300 million per annum to Guinea's GDP and the creation of 320,000 new jobs.

8. Mali Dr Mamadou Goita

The annual consumption of rice in Mali is 57 kg/head, and Mali imported 148,243 tons of rice in 2007. Current development partners in rice projects include the Millennium Challenge (16,000 ha), the Libyan program (25,000 ha for the first phase), Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank. The target production for 2018 is 3,969,564 tons of paddy. At present just 19% of the 2.2 million ha of land suitable for irrigation has been developed.

Mali has rice sub-sector strategies to promote privatization of the production and distribution of R1 and R2 seeds, to build new irrigation infrastructure, to recruit and train more people in the use of improved seed systems and phytogenetic resources, to enhance marketing and distribution capacity, to strengthen irrigation and regulation of water through public-private-partnerships (PPP), to promote diffusion of technologies, to accelerate farmers' access to agricultural credit with low interest rates, and to develop capacity through expanding research recruitment and training researchers.

9. Nigeria Engineer Moses Ayodele Aiyelagbe Adewuyi

Despite its vast potential, Nigeria's recent annual rice production averages only 2.21 million tons against an estimated demand of 5 million tons. The national agricultural policy emphasizes food self-sufficiency including that in rice.

Nigeria plans to increase its rice production by 3.8 times to 13 million tons in the year 2018. This will not only meet the needs of the Nigerian people but also contribute to rice self sufficiency in the region. To this end, the Nigerian NRDS identified four distinct sub-sectors as the priority areas. In order of importance they are: processing and marketing; land and irrigation development; seed development, and project management (coordination, monitoring and evaluation). Furthermore, the Federal Government of Nigeria seeks to foster Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) to support rice development driven by the private sector.

10. Mozambique Mr Marcelo Chaquisse

The consumption of rice in Mozambique is increasing, mainly in the urban

areas, with the estimated total rice market at about 550,000 tons out of which 350,000 tons are imports from Asian countries. The NRDS of Mozambique was based on the existing rice development paper included in the Plan of Action for Food Crops Production 2008–2011. The Plan, which was adopted to face the global food crisis in early 2008, places rice as the second priority crop after maize.

The Mozambique NRDS is geared to reversing the country's increasing dependence on rice imports through harnessing its rich natural endowment, thereby contributing to development of the commercial agricultural sector as well as to poverty reduction. Rice production in 2018 is expected to reach about 1.36 million tons and most of the increase will be derived from expansion of rainfed lowland production, coupled to some increase in yield. Three priority areas have been identified: strengthening competitiveness of local produce; increased production and productivity; and capacity building and coordination.

11. Madagascar Mr Philibert Rakotoson

The average consumption of rice is estimated at 138 kg/head/year in rural areas and at 118 kg/head/year in urban areas. Madagascar imported around 180,000 tons of rice in 2008. The annual growth in rice production since 1980 is estimated at 1.5%, while average yields remain relatively low at 2.5 t/ha. Although stagnant for a long time, annual rice production has increased significantly since 2003 and is estimated at 4,914,450 tons in 2008 – an increase of 26% compared to 2007 – with an average yield of 3.0 t/ha. There are 1.5–2.0 million rice growers, of which only 28% adopt an improved system (SRI/SRA). Current development partners are FAO, World Bank, AfDB, IFAD, JICA etc.

The initial target was to double paddy production from 3.5 million tons and a yield of 2.8 ton/ha in 2007 to 7.0 million tons with a productivity of 5.0 t/ha in 2009. The sub-sector strategies are: to promote use of improved seed to obtain rapid development and to harmonize marketing of seed; to promote stable fertilizer availability; to improve the availability and efficient use of water in irrigation systems; and to promote farm mechanization. Capacity development will also be undertaken through strengthening agricultural services and initiating strong links between Research–Extension–Training–Production and

the market by setting up an information exchange platform.

12. Uganda

Mr Andrew Sarich

The per capita consumption of rice is estimated at 8 kg, producing a total consumption of 224,000 metric tonnes by the population of 28–30 million, which is growing at 3.2% p.a. Imports total 60,000 metric tonnes. Between 2003 and 2007, rice production increased from 123,000 to 160,000 metric tonnes. About 80% of rice farmers are small-scale farmers with less than 2 ha, and women play a major role in rice production.

The goal of Uganda's NRDS is to increase household food security and reduce household poverty through increased production of high quality rice, coupled to specific targets of achieving self-sufficiency in 2013 with 335,400 metric tonnes of production and generating a surplus by 2018 at 540,150 metric tonnes. This will entail increasing the number of rice researchers from nine in 2008 to 30 in 2018, research technicians from 10 to 30 and extension workers from 63 to 160. JICA, FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), AfDB and IFAD are currently supporting Uganda's rice development.

Its sub-sector strategies include improving seed system facilities; to train researchers, farmers and private sector personnel in seed production; to improve research and technology generation; to increase access to and adoption of knowledge and technologies; to develop a policy on fertilizer usage (currently not taxed) and soil management; to improve irrigation infrastructure and water management; to subsidize acquisition costs for machinery and equipment; to develop policy on agricultural finance; to advocate land tenure and property rights reform to facilitate security for loans; to strengthen the post-harvest-rice technology development center and train personnel; to disseminate market information on rice quality and standards; and to promote packaging and branding.

Comments on the NRDS by the CARD Secretariat Technical Working Group

presented by Dr Marco Wopereis, Deputy Director General (Research), Africa Rice Center (ARC)

Prior to the General Meeting, the CARD Secretariat convened a working group comprising the CARD Coordinator, Africa Rice Center, AGRA, FARA, IRRI, JICA, and JIRCAS to review the 12 NRDS. These Strategies reflect the importance of rice as a staple food in all 12 countries, 8 of which aim to be self-sufficient by 2018. Madagascar, Mali, Tanzania and Sierra Leone also aim to produce a surplus for export. These projections set optimistic but credible targets.

Irrigated systems constitute the preferred agro-ecological zone for rice development in Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania; rainfed lowland systems are favored in Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda; and upland systems in Cameroon and Guinea. The proposals for expanding land areas under rice cultivation in some countries were over optimistic, especially for irrigated areas. The targeted yields were generally attainable but it is necessary to articulate and prioritize best-bet strategies for achieving them.

The NRDS indicated that lack of access to credit and inappropriate land tenure institutions were serious socioeconomic constraints. The important role of women in rice production was acknowledged but the Strategies did not elaborate how their needs would be catered for to enable them to be more productive while also being able to fulfill their other roles and improve the wellbeing of both themselves and their children.

The NRDS commonly overestimated the amount of certified seed that would be produced. Although most countries have seed production systems in place, with varying degrees of public-private sector involvement, they need support to get them up to the desired level of production in terms of both quality and quantity. Some countries do not have varietal release mechanisms.

All the NRDS emphasized the need to invest in water control infrastructure, including rehabilitating rundown irrigation systems. However, the ownership and modalities for operating and maintaining the schemes have to be clarified and more work is needed to harmonize policies between different ministries with respect to water use at national level and between countries at regional level. This must be coupled to identifying the most promising strategic locations for rice production and processing with respect to markets for rice. That will have to be

underpinned by investment in improved transport infrastructure between production areas and markets. This is both a national and regional issue that had not been given sufficient attention.

Most countries estimated fertilizer needs by assuming fixed and very high rates of application. A better approach would be to calculate fertilizer requirements using rice nutrient needs to achieve the set production targets. Indeed, an integrated crop management approach is necessary to improve fertilizer efficiency while raising rice production. Without exception, the countries recognized the need for appropriate mechanization to attain the targets for increased areas in rice production and to improve the timeliness of field operations. This will require building local machinery production and maintenance capacity.

The importance of producing good quality grain was recognized but the extent of pre- and post-harvest losses had not been quantified, resulting in underestimation of their reduction as a means of increasing the amount of grain that would be available for sale. Attention must be paid to improving harvesting, threshing, drying and storage capacity to handle the anticipated increased quantities of rice harvested. Tied in with that is the need for more detailed elucidation of the roles of the different national and regional actors in the rice value chains, especially as marketing was highlighted as an important national and regional issue. To facilitate marketing of locally-produced rice more attention should be given to understanding consumer preferences and to formulating enabling national and regional trade policies.

Every country had recognized the need to strengthen human resources in rice research and extension but the ways and means for achieving that had not been adequately addressed. In view of the wide range of disciplines and skills that are needed it will require both significant investment and regional cooperation to produce the required number and caliber of scientists and technicians. There is also a need for improved access to rice-related information and to improve the infrastructure for supporting the production and delivery of research products to the end users. These were among the regional issues that had not yet been adequately thought through. Others included water supply, rice trading, seed policies and release mechanisms and also input subsidies which, although developed independently, inevitably had cross-border implications.

In conclusion, the Working Group congratulated the national NRDS Task Forces for developing sound strategies in a very short time. Nevertheless, there was still room for improvement, particularly in terms of articulating how to achieve the targets, including those for capacity building.

Discussion

This meeting provided an occasion to talk about issues at all levels; continental, sub-regional and national and between Africa and other continents. The issues included commitment, sustainability and the Blue and Green Revolutions in Africa. There is need for commitment at the highest levels, preferably up to Heads of State and Government, to create enabling policy environments. Even though the high food prices had helped catalyze African political will to support increased rice production, there was still a need strategies to make the leaders aware of the issues and of the options open to them to promote rice production in their countries.

Writing a strategy is a technical task but implementing requires political will, and without ownership it will not happen. The NRDS Task Forces must therefore identify in their countries those in authority who have real power and who must be convinced to take ownership of the NRDS. The benefits of reaching even above the Ministry of Finance to top political levels are illustrated by Mali where developments in the rice sector were being followed by the Prime Minister and where, because of the good farm-gate prices of rice, the producers had been able to pay back all their debts. This was true wealth creation. In other countries, there was still concern about the level of political support even though the NRDS were said to be aligned with CAADP. NEPAD had offered to help to get political buy-in at the highest level through CAADP. This will involve getting the NRDS into the country round-table processes in which all the CARD priority countries were engaged so that they will be truly endorsed by each country's decision makers. The African Heads of State and Government were scheduled to meet in July 2009 with agriculture high on their agenda and CARD should be featured as a pilot program for CAADP.

All the countries in sub-Saharan Africa are at different stages in developing their national agricultural development strategies and may find it advisable to use rice as a test crop because of its advantages and the lessons it would provide for transfer to other crops. This would take advantage of the estimated 150 million ha that are suitable for rice production in Africa, but of which only 3.9 million ha is in rice production. Africa also has underutilized water resources suitable for rice production.

It was estimated that better use of already available technologies could make Africa more than self-sufficient, while capturing value-added processing would improve employment opportunities. This was supported by the near consensus among economists that rice is the most important agricultural development opportunity for Africa because technologies, such as small-scale manageable irrigation and appropriate machines for post-harvest processing, can be readily transferred from Asia to Africa. One means of achieving that would be to provide more opportunities for sub-Saharan Africans to go to Asia and Egypt for training to supplement the training offered by the Africa Rice Center.

In contrast to other cereals, rice has a major advantage in that good quality seed can be produced by farmers. In addition, since rice is self pollinating, farmers can be trained to go through two cycles without having to buy new seeds. These features make seed production cheap and transferable from farmer to farmer, but farmers still have to be trained to produce quality seeds and this must be factored into the NRDS. This will also have to be underpinned by sustainable commercial seed production systems. Private enterprise systems have proven to be more sustainable and less prone to the danger of mixing varieties but some public investment is still required because private seed companies are not overly interested in rice due to farmers not being dependent on purchased seed. Communities can play a big role in seed production but it is essential to consider the complex dynamics involved which favor a mix of communal and private seed production. AGRA is using a two-pronged approach by supporting both smallholders and the private sector where it exists.

It was noted that high fertilizer prices, which are 2 to 3 times higher than in Asia, make it difficult for African producers to be competitive. Mali has set an example by commissioning a fertilizer factory that is producing products that are much

cheaper than imported fertilizers. The cost to farmers could be reduced further with better transport, improved market regulation and information, marketing and processing infrastructure. However, amongst the lessons to be taken from the Asian Green Revolution is that it is not right to rely exclusively on chemical fertilizer. Producers must get advice on greater use of locally-produced organic material to supplement chemical fertilizer. Ten tons per ha was cited as the target application of organic fertilizer, and extension workers are already explaining how to make compost. However, experience gained with crops such as coffee reveals that the use of organic fertilizer presents management challenges, such as in capturing the nitrogen before it hydrolyzes.

A key factor in disseminating any technology is finding the real opportunity for scaling it up across space and time. The opportunity should not be missed to get this right in respect of fertilizers for rice production because farmers make business decisions all the time with much less room for maneuver than input suppliers. Subsidies may be used to counter this but they are controversial because some subsidy schemes work against the interests of the private sector and therefore against the long-term sustainability of the value chains. Involving the State brings problems in sustaining subsidies, but the private sector cannot reach all producers, especially those who are too remote or not sufficiently profitable. However, it is possible to design 'smart' subsidies that encourage the private sector and are sustainable. If fertilizer prices remain high and crop prices fall there would be a tremendous strain on subsidy systems that have not been properly designed. In Mali the government covered the difference between the import price and what farmers were deemed able to pay, which worked out with the farmers paying for the cost of one bag and getting two.

Where subsidy schemes, and the production systems that they promote, have not been well designed farmers have, in times of stress such as flooding, reverted to old systems of production. This indicates that they did not truly 'own' the new systems. The smart subsidy schemes should have exit strategies that will lead to farmers standing on their own feet with improved technologies that generate sufficient profit for them to be able to finance their fertilizer requirements. However, in the meantime some system of support is required and CARD should find a way of generating hard evidence on subsidies which is so far missing, despite its importance for framing appropriate policies.

Crop insurance or guarantees can build producer confidence. Removing duties on imported production inputs can help keep crop costs and prices down but there can still be problems with the flow of products to the producer. These are the kind of pros and cons that must be studied from past schemes to find new, more sustainable solutions without the danger of creating dependencies that could be disastrous if the subsidies cannot be sustained. These and other risks should be recognized and built into the design of ‘smart subsidies.’

Rice, especially upland rice, has been used in Brazil as a tool for settling the Cerrado savanna because rice can grow on the acid soils after deforestation. There were some support pillars including: setting purchase prices before planting; insurance for the adoption of a minimum suite of technology; and providing storage for rice bags which is cheap but still too expensive for farmers. These three pillars give government an effective tool with which to target the areas most conducive to rice. The incentives could have been set better but they nevertheless provided farmers with the security to invest in new technology because they were protected from price fluctuations beyond their control. The scheme also boosted the confidence of investors in ancillary infrastructure and services because they knew that a minimum quantity of rice would be produced and where it was going to be produced.

Supporting such schemes requires a 10-year financing strategy that individual countries could adapt for their own purposes, and UNDP would be pleased to help promote such a strategy because it is very committed to CARD.

Poverty reduction and food security goals should normally be compatible but care still needs to be taken to ensure that strategies do not work against the interests of smallholders. However, that does not mean that African rice production should be restricted to smallholders. There is also room for large scale producers but the NRDS did not recognize the roles of large local or foreign investors in rice production in Africa.

All the stakeholders have valuable functions so the needs of all actors in the value chains should be taken into account. While the different categories of stakeholders can coordinate their actions amongst themselves, overall coordination is also needed. This is equally applicable to capacity building for which the strategies should go beyond simply training individuals to take account of the ways in which

the trainees will be employed. For example, there is a need to train mechanics to maintain equipment before farmers are made dependent on the technology.

Capacity strengthening should be done as locally as possible to keep it contextually relevant and to ensure that graduates will have employment to return to after their training. The need to strengthen the capacities of youths and producers should not be forgotten. In Guinea, China formerly helped train producers and this had a big impact. There are also good examples of schemes carried out in Côte d'Ivoire with Japanese support which could be replicated for training trainers.

It is very important to know how national investment can be raised for improving rice production and for demonstrating commitment and ownership as a means of attracting donor funding. For this the NRDS should be more explicit about the expected costs of the short-, medium- and long-term activities. The Task Forces had not paid sufficient attention to the long history of rice development in Africa to learn about the successes and failures in order to improve the next generation of projects. The success rate must be improved because over US\$ 2.2 billion had been invested in rice development in 39 African countries but there was still a shortfall in production.

In this regard, it was noted that the synthesis of the CARD Working Group ended with questions about how to achieve the NRDS targets, making it essential to find out what works and what does not and why. IFAD would be pleased to support such a study to engage country stakeholders in discussion about the causes of success and failure to avoid repeating the latter. Indeed, one source of information would be an IFAD study that was about to be published. The reluctance to analyze and report failures should be overcome because they often have the most beneficial lessons. An exception to the general reluctance to expose failures is Côte d'Ivoire which undertook a year-long study of failures and sent the draft report to all the stakeholders, including donors, to get their input before the country developed its NRDS. In the case of JICA-funded projects the study should be done jointly by the relevant countries and JICA. There are also valuable lessons to be learnt from failures in the Asian Green Revolution.

The World Bank is supporting the creation of centers of excellence for rice in Mali

and Tanzania that will be valuable knowledge centers for countries in their sub-regions. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has a very good scheme for the dissemination of NERICA. Among other achievements, this enabled seed to be brought from Uganda to Mali until this year when Mali will produce sufficient seed of its own. The WFP is very committed to CARD because it is transforming from a 'food aid' to a 'food assistance' agency. In 2008, the WFP purchased 140 million tons of rice, mostly in Africa. Its Purchase for Progress initiative (P4P) is a pilot initiative in 40 countries – 20 of them CARD countries – which is supporting smallholder development through creating demand. There is further potential for bringing this demand-side approach to CARD as an efficient import substitution concept. However, locally-produced rice has to date competed very poorly with imported rice in quality and in the lack of value-added elements. This does not imply any value judgment about the value of local production. It just indicates that the actual rice delivered to WFP stores was not competitive.

The WFP has learnt that while it is possible to solve the production problems in many communities they remain vulnerable unless the post-harvest issues are also sorted out. This indicates that post-harvest marketing functions form possibly the biggest constraint and that CARD should focus on both production and marketing. There are two main questions to be answered; *Where is value being destroyed in the value chain? Why is it cheaper to import than to buy locally?* There are many similar questions related to the efficiency of rice production compared to other land use options. For example, investment in rice in Uganda should perhaps be questioned more carefully than in some other countries because there is insufficient value added and high opportunity costs.

The different NRDS governance structures should be compared to draw lessons and identify best practice and, recognizing that there are many actions beyond the remit of the Ministries of Agriculture, these structures need to be overlaid with comparable governance structures to assess goodness of fit. The World Bank offered to work with IFAD in supporting CARD in this exercise.

There is a role in CARD for regional strategies but it has not been determined who will develop and implement them. It must be remembered in this respect that Africa is a very large continent making it is essential to be clear about what is meant by 'regional'. Mostly it means sub-regional such as the Mano River Union

and it would be good to work with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The sub-regional organizations (SROs) such as the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CARDESA) should be involved in the exchange of information and technologies from sub-region to sub-region.

Irrigation systems are very capital intensive and are easily damaged if not managed well. Since each country will have the same problems but different priorities, they will need strategies for identifying the gaps, determining how to move forward and for maintaining the new or rehabilitated water management infrastructures.

It was noted that the NRDS promised dramatic increases in production without supplying sufficient scientific basis for the sustainability of the associated higher yields and increased land use. For example, it is not explained how soil fertility, which varies between different soils and differing pH values, will be maintained. In addition there are unanswered questions concerning the need for minimum amounts of organic matter to maintain the physical quality of the soils, and biotic stresses that are known to present serious risks that have not been answered in the NRDS. For example, rice rust is one of several diseases that can be expected to appear in the near future in Africa for which there is no control strategy. The existence of such threats and questions indicates a need for strong research capacities capable of pre-empting or dealing with problems when they occur.

Conclusion

The Chairpersons concluded that the totality of the presentations indicated that CARD is seen as an important instrument for accelerating the development of African agriculture across whole value chains, including the public and private sector elements. While by no means overlooking the work of the international centers such as WARDA and IRRI, Africa can also learn from other continents. They drew attention to the operational guidelines of CARD which state that it will be implemented with true respect for African ownership and will involve the appropriate African institutions. The issue of political commitment was raised by

many; this will become increasingly important as CARD goes into its investment phase.

The meeting had confirmed that the NRDS were well enough advanced for moving towards implementation. However, they could still be improved, particularly in terms of articulating how to achieve the targets. Some aspects could be improved by further elaboration and improving the format of the NRDS but that was not thought to be immediately necessary. It was noted that shortages in human capacity will be a common constraint to achieving NRDS targets.

The agreed future actions included:

- Ensuring that the NRDS governance systems at national level will have sufficient authority to ensure coherence in NRDS implementation.
- Keeping stakeholders involved in elaborating future actions through dialogue at national and international levels. Help may be needed to facilitate engagement with the highest possible political levels to ensure support for the NRDS. CARD will provide technical assistance for this.
- Following up to ensure that the priorities in the NRDS are reflected in the PRSPs and National Development Strategies (NDS), and preparation of advocacy materials for attracting Development Partner interest.
- Elaboration of assistance required for developing regional rice development strategies on issues that transcend national boundaries such as water catchment management and fertilizer subsidies.

5. Development Partners' approach to African rice development

CARD's Development Partners each made a presentation on their approaches to supporting African rice development.

NEPAD – Dr Komla Prosper Bissi

NEPAD is looking for global support for CAADP as a framework for addressing agricultural development. This approach has been endorsed by IBRD, EC, IFAD and most of the OECD countries and it is the first time that such harmonization has been attempted for African development.

CAADP has now moved from strategy to action as more countries participate in the round-table processes. CARD calls for inclusiveness at all levels and NEPAD will continue to ensure that rice is given due recognition in CAADP plans and will advocate for donor support for rice development. NEPAD will help generate buy-in and support from the highest political levels.

IRRI and WARDA – Dr Bob Zeigler, Director General IRRI

IRRI and WARDA are aware of the complexity of the task ahead for CARD. Improved and adapted varieties are a necessary part of a solution that ranges from quality seed to good water and land management and the action taken must reach all the way to the consumer. Packages of improved technologies are required that are appropriate to farmers' needs, capacities and levels of understanding. Producing and implementing such packages will require trained human resources, and a review by IRRI and WARDA of CARD's capacity building needs found serious cause for concern. There are too few scientists, research technicians, extension workers and field technical staff in all areas of rice production, processing and marketing. To make matters worse, not all the rice scientists are working full time on rice, they are not evenly spread – the majority are in Egypt – and most of them are ageing and approaching retirement.

It is important to train high-level researchers (PhD and MSc) but they also have to be retained and that needs better facilities, budgets and enabling institutions. Research technicians are often the institutional memory of the institutions and their training is vital. It is hoped to develop a regional community training centre for research technicians. IRRI and WARDA can make a significant contribution to capacity strengthening but they cannot do it alone and it is essential that the capacity strengthening starts now.

Japanese Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Mr Akira Yamada

Actions to take in support of and in alignment with CAADP were identified at TICAD IV. This includes the development and dissemination of improved crop technology, improved water management and better access to markets. Through JICA, Japan is making very significant contributions to African agricultural development in collaboration with numerous bilateral and multilateral agencies, and Japan's support for CARD was assured.

JICA – Mr Kohara Motofumi

As Japan's aid implementation agency, JICA will do everything possible to strengthen its financial and technical cooperation activities in Africa, including the realization of the CARD initiative. Over the last two to three decades JICA has implemented about 100 rice projects in sub-Saharan Africa, including support for the development of the New Rice for Africa (NERICA) and its dissemination in Uganda, and for post-harvest technology improvement in Senegal. However, JICA intends to raise the quality and quantity of investment in African rice development significantly in the coming years, taking into account the NRDS of partner countries and in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral donors and development agencies.

In its support, JICA addresses the whole value chain of the rice sector and has a full set of integrated activities, including research and development, introduction of appropriate varieties, dissemination of appropriate cultivation techniques, development of infrastructure, post-harvest and marketing, and capacity development.

JICA has proposed setting up a donor coordination platform for rice research and

development. It recognizes that this will be hard to accomplish but it is a goal that must be pursued.

World Bank – Dr Christine Cornelius

The increase in food prices provided an opportunity to focus attention on agriculture, resulting in substantially increased investment in 2009, including channeling the World Bank's profits into food production. Even investment in irrigation is again increasing. NEPAD and CAADP provide the guiding principles for the Bank's contributions to African agricultural development. Contrary to trends in previous decades, agricultural growth in sub-Saharan Africa now compares well with other regions although it is still mostly the result of area expansion.

CARD will need a good monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and the Bank was still grappling with this challenge while looking for a smaller set of indicators to indicate trends in land and water management, markets and infrastructure, and agricultural technology. There was also a need to invest in analytical work to better understand how to improve marketing as a prerequisite for maximizing farmers' benefits.

It was noted that a Japanese Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD) for a technical assistance program was being developed. There was also a Japanese Social Development Fund which had created a facility for African agriculture which could be used to support CARD initiatives.

AfDB – Dr Harouna Dosso

AfDB's programs, which are very similar to those of the World Bank, are linked to helping countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The AfDB prioritizes projects which have selective and managed results, are knowledge-based (capacity building), and which address gender and environment mainstreaming, climate change resilience, and partnerships. Most of its investment goes to capacity building and rural development but, like the World Bank, in respect of CARD it is also scaling-up investment in irrigation in general, with a substantial investment in rice irrigation. Thirteen countries have applied for official support from the second phase of the NERICA project and many of those

are CARD countries.

The implementation of the AfDB's strategy calls for closer partnership with key specialized agricultural institutions and with international organizations including JICA and it agrees with JICA that better donor collaboration is essential.

USAID – Mr Tom Hobgood

USAID's strategy is developing under the changes brought on by the food crisis and by President Obama's administration. It will focus on increasing agricultural growth and expanding staple-food supplies, raising agricultural productivity, expanded trade and the reduction of barriers to market access, promotion of sound market-based principles for agriculture and accelerated participation of the ultra-poor in rural growth.

The Agency is convinced that even though some public sector workers are not comfortable working with the private sector they will not be successful unless they work with the whole value chain. The challenge is to change behaviors and the value-chain approach helps to do that. USAID's value-chain work in West Africa will be valuable for fine-tuning the respective NRDS.

UNDP – Dr Shantanu Mukherjee

The UNDP is pleased to be associated with CARD, especially because of NERICA's contribution to achieving the MDGs, and agrees with others on the need to improve donor coordination. UNDP works with partner organizations to strengthen management because there is often a lack of capacity in general things such as procurement and planning with which UNDP can help. It can also, through the resident national coordinators, provide a platform for knowledge sharing.

AGRA – Dr George Bigirwa

AGRA has four ongoing programs: 1. Development of human capacity; 2. Crop improvement; 3. Development and strengthening of seed systems; and 4. Development of agri-dealer networks. AGRA also supports capacity strengthening and is currently supporting five PhD and eight MSc candidates. It plans over the

next 10 years to support the training of 35 rice scientists (15 PhD and 20 MSc). AGRA is also providing support to seed enterprises that will provide improved seeds to smallholders. It aims to establish a dense network of agro-dealers and enable the production of small technology or input packages that meet the more limited needs of smallholders.

FAO – Dr Shivaji Pandey

FAO has provided, in the region, support to national rice programmes by building up their capacity and facilities to increase the productivity of rice farming in a sustainable way through field projects, forum/fora for promotion of partnership and sharing of experience and expertise, formulation of strategy and policy, and dissemination of information. FAO is fully engaged with and supportive of CARD.

IFAD – Mr Cheikh Sourang

Agricultural growth has four times more impact on poverty than similar growth in other sectors of developing economies. Hence IFAD is investing in agricultural development and is particularly interested in CARD because it sees CARD as an example of how to achieve MDG 1, i.e. it is time-bound, has set targets, and is partnership-based. It also shows how to turn a challenge into an opportunity.

In specific relation to CARD, IFAD was concerned about the integration of the NRDS into national strategies such as PRSPs and will be pleased to collaborate with other CARD stakeholders to ensure that happens. IFAD will also be pleased to collaborate in a study of what works and does not work in rice development. Other interests of IFAD include investing in up-scaling and issues associated with access to assets, markets, rural finance and advisory services, opportunities for off-farm employment, and how to ensure that the rural poor are actively engaged in their own development.

WFP – Dr Steven Were Omamo

WFP has a joint MoU with FAO, IFAD and AGRA to support the African Green Revolution. This is consistent with its focus on addressing the root causes of hunger. It is engaged with all but one CARD country and as such can be an effective field-based collaboration partner in several ways:

1. As a rice purchaser:
 - a. Through normal tender processes
 - b. Through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative as a strategic and deliberate way to support smallholder development. In Phase 1 of P4P there are four CARD countries and in phase 2 there will be four more. In these countries WFP is committed, provided that the rice meets the quality standards, to buy local products. This has, for example, triggered improvement in the quality of maize offered by maize producers in Uganda.
2. The WFP's Food For Work program can be used to improve land management in rice production areas.
3. WFP's vulnerability status mapping may be useful for establishing base lines for M&E, especially as it covers all CARD priority countries.
4. Enabling rice to play a larger role in improving resilience, diversifying the food basket and in diversifying income sources requires policy advocacy and therein may be a role for WFP, together with FAO and IFAD.

In WFP's view rice may be a low-hanging fruit. There seems to be confidence that any obstacles can be overcome, and therefore WFP is ready as an implementing agency to support CARD.

IWMI – Dr Akissa Bahri

It takes a liter of water to produce one food calorie yet insufficient thought is given to water management and this is much more than just irrigation because a lot of rice is rainfed. Despite the urgent need for improvement, water productivity has been static in Africa where there is potential to halve the water per unit output through direct improvements in water and land management supported by enabling land tenure arrangements and mechanization. IWMI is supportive and wants to be part of the CARD initiative.

FARA – Mr Ralph von Kaufmann²

FARA is contributing directly to CARD as a member of the Steering Committee and through staff contribution to the Secretariat. It anticipates that CARD and

² Owing to pressures of rapporteurship on the FARA delegate this statement was not presented but is included to reflect FARA's contribution to CARD

especially the sub-regional NRDS will draw on FARA's five continental networking support programmes for support in resource mobilization, information and knowledge sharing, regional policies and markets, capacity strengthening and forming partnerships and strategic alliances. The sub-regional organisations ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD and CARDESA will also have a lot to offer in facilitating inter-country collaboration in rice development.

Discussion

Without investment in capacity building the targets for CARD will not be achieved and, in view of the assessments by IRRI and WARDA, an immediate start is needed to ensure trainees can be productive in time to contribute to meeting CARD's objectives. It is not just a matter of numbers; there must be coordination to ensure that the candidates will get the right knowledge and capacities. CARD stakeholders need to think out of the box in addressing the capacity issues.

Equally, the trainees must return to work environments that will encourage them to stay and pass on the benefit of their training. AGRA noted that it was not only focusing on degree-level training. It is also supporting the training of seed producers in a range of business skills so that they can use qualified providers to deliver tailor-made capacity strengthening packages. This applies also to agro-dealers so that they too can be successful in business and provide correct advice to their customers.

There is an unmet need to build local capacity to provide training, and potential trainers are being linked to international sources for strengthening their own capacities to deliver appropriate training. Ultimately the countries must decide who should provide what kind of training.

The approach adopted by AGRA is encouraging in the way that it addresses the varying needs of different actors. But CARD needs to think bigger to develop a farmer-driven approach that still ensures the input of new knowledge. The choice of delivery system is also important. Public funding for private delivery has been very effective and there are private companies that are interested in improving the capacity of producers so that they can be repeat customers.

There are many successes that CARD should build on even as it tries to avoid the causes of failure, and it has the advantage that there are more success stories for rice in Africa than there are for other crops. However, CARD will still have to contend with the slow uptake of new technologies as exemplified by the continuing use of the C4 variety in Mozambique despite much better modern varieties.

All the different activities and the various actors need to be coordinated and one step in that direction would be for the CARD Secretariat to develop knowledge systems that could be trusted as a tool for use by both potential investors and actors. The Secretariat may use small groups of stakeholders to look at particular issues. It was also agreed that there must be a stop – in favor of a value-chain approach – to disjointed efforts that address different unconnected aspects. This would avoid problems such as increasing production without being able to market the surplus crop.

CARD must also factor in the manufacturers of rice equipment and, even when sourced within the country, there has to be consideration for local maintenance and repair. The private sector should be involved in this.

A characteristic of an effective coalition is a good distribution of functions and an equitable division of labor with all partners aware of who is responsible for what. However, it seems that some actors are sometimes engaged in activities for which they are not best suited and this should be avoided. In this respect, while it is good that national issues have been put up front, with regional issues to follow, the common good will be best served by exploiting the comparative advantages of the different countries.

The General Meeting had presented national strategies to the Supporting Partners and this should be quickly followed by discussion between the national actors and the countries' Development Partners to determine where they can intervene.

In response to the discussion the CARD Secretariat noted that:

- The planning of the information system had just started and following discussion with AGRA, IRRI and WARDA, it is intended to have a beta-version website running by October 2009
- The effort to coordinate capacity building was just starting and will be followed through
- The NRDS show what is needed and the discussion on them was revealing the comparative advantage of the different development partners
- The coalition partners were examining the matrices of the ongoing rice development projects to determine the gaps and prioritize what needs to be done.

Conclusion

The Chair concluded that encouraging highlights of development-partner interests and activities had been presented. However, several aspects had not been stressed adequately, including:

1. Strengthening information for scientists and technicians, extending to the village level to reach isolated farmers, i.e. community-level information systems. There are examples in the Philippines from which to learn.
2. There is a need for more thought to be given to the energy issues in connection with mechanization of cultivation and post-harvest activities. Will there be sole reliance on traditional sources of farm power or will CARD look for other sources, including renewables such as hydro- or solar power generation. CARD can help stimulate innovative technologies especially for communities that are off-grid.

The discussion concluded that each Partner has shown its comparative advantage in rice development while more concerted efforts by the Partners will be needed to bring about more efficient and effective investment in the rice sector. Agreed future actions included more dialogue at both national and the headquarters levels to harmonize support for the implementation of the NRDS, and evidence-based advocacy to ensure that African rice development gets its 'fair share' in the Development Partners' cooperation strategies.

6. South-South Cooperation for African rice development

The Asian, Brazilian and Egyptian country representatives' presentations on South-South collaboration included statements on their experience in rice development in their own countries and on their collaboration with African countries. Each southern country indicated its willingness and capacity to provide technical assistance to African rice development.

Indonesia – Dr Bambang Budhianto

Indonesia became self-sufficient in rice for a brief period during the mid-1980s. However, production growth slowed during the late 1980s and early 1990s, before stagnating at a very low average level from the late 1990s, which made Indonesia the biggest rice importer in the world. In January 2007, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono instructed that rice production must be increased by 2 million tonnes in 2007 (5% increase) and they are again self-sufficient. This was achieved through improved yields, an increased area under rice cultivation, empowering agricultural institution capacity and support for farming credits. New practices in integrated farming were introduced through farmer field schools to reduce the yield gaps.

Indonesia has been involved in international cooperation for rice development since the early 1980s. It began by seconding rice experts to Tanzania in 1981 to facilitate the establishment of a training centre for farmers in the Morogoro region.

Under the third country expert program (TCEP), which is supported by JICA, Indonesia has participated in two projects. One for promoting smallholder rice production in Papua New Guinea (2003–2008); the other for diffusing appropriate agricultural technology in Madagascar (2005–2008). During the implementation of these projects, several experts stayed in the project locations for six months for each mission (2-4 missions/expert). The experts provided guidance and transferred knowledge to agriculture extension officers and farmers through workshops and training in rice production, harvest and post-harvest handling. For the Madagascar project, aspects of soil improvement, farm machinery and an integrated crop-livestock system were also introduced.

Malaysia – Mr Jamaluddin Abu Bakar

Malaysia has successfully increased rice production but still imports about 25% of its requirements. One of its successes has been in commercializing and up-scaling research results through the parastatal Marditech Corporation, which is the commercial arm of the Malaysian Agriculture Research Development Institute (MARDI). Marditech aims to accelerate the uptake of research results by providing the vital link between the scientists in MARDI and the industry. It exists to make science a worthwhile endeavor for the government, the industry and foremost, the scientist. Marditech has expertise to serve the industry at all stages of the food supply chain. This makes cross-referencing possible where one stage complements the other. It commercializes MARDI technology and provides project management for the Malaysia Agro-exposition Park from where it provides international agro-industrial services. One example of this in Africa is the collaboration with the Kano rice program which has been written up in a UNIDO report. Marditech has about 30 staff who travel to Kano from time to time. In addition to imparting skills, Marditech is promoting a maintenance mind set.

Philippines – Mr Ronilo A. Beronio

Philippine rice yields have been increasing at about 2.7% per year. This has underpinned growth of 3.6% but yields must grow at over 5% to meet the targets that have been set for the rice sector. The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) leads rice R&D efforts with programs for: Favorable Ecosystems (irrigated lowland); Unfavorable Ecosystem (rainfed lowland); Knowledge Management and Promotion; Impact and Policy Research.

PhilRice is engaged in international collaboration working for Africa's rice sufficiency by providing technical assistance in rice and rice-based farming systems and capacity building, inspired by collaboration with JICA which includes training for African-subject-matter specialists, development of training and information material, technical assistance, adaptation trialing of machines for land preparation and harvesting, and guidance in research, development and extension.

PhilRice's platform of technologies is accessible through PalayCheck, which is an integrated crop management system that combines technologies and learning

processes in seed quality, land preparation, crop establishment, nutrient management, water management, pest management and harvest management.

Farmers are trained in Rice ICM through the season-long Farmers Field Schools approach which aims to cover 500,000 farmers. There is also the Open Academy of Philippine Agriculture with its farmer call centre (OpAPA). It was noted that the Philippine Rice Research Institute is very innovative: it has turned rice into coffee and into wine.

Thailand – Dr Lawanprasert Apichar

Rice prices in Thailand increased two fold during the 2004 food crisis, leading to food shortages and insecurity. However, Thailand is now self-sufficient in food crops, livestock and fishery products. Rice production in 2008 was 30.93 million tons, leaving 13.26 million tons (45%) for export after domestic consumption of 16.94 million tons. This makes Thailand the world's largest rice exporter and makes its continued success very important.

Of the total Thai rice exported, high quality rice accounts for 45.7%. The rest is made up of medium quality (12.2%), low quality rice (22.1%) and parboiled rice (20.0%). Thailand's rice research and development focus is on sustainable agriculture by integrating three main goals: 1. environmental health, 2. economic profitability, and 3. social and economic equity.

Thailand is cooperating with Sudan in upgrading rice production technology, to improve research and development of rice production and to provide technical assistance on rice production.

Vietnam – Mr Nguyen Xuan Dzung

Vietnam is regarded as one of the most experienced and productive countries in paddy rice cultivation. It has moved successfully from one to two crops per year, exploited more land for rice production, reclaimed barren and deserted land for rice cultivation and applied technology to increase rice productivity and production through research in rice breeding and selecting suitable rice seed for the different regions, application of integrated measures in rice production, increasing the hybrid rice farming area in the regions, gradually bringing machinery into rice production, and by continually training and retraining the extension staff, workers and farmers.

Vietnam's objective in providing assistance for African rice production is to increase agricultural production quickly and it is strongly promoting its assistance to this vital sector. Since the 1980s agricultural experts from Vietnam have been assigned to Angola, Mozambique and other countries. Vietnam has entered into tripartite agreements with five African countries (involving over 300 agricultural experts). This is provided through provincial friendships with Zambia and Mozambique resulting in proposed tripartite cooperation involving the Hanoi People's Committee, the Government of Mozambique and JICA. Vietnam's model of expert exchange has attracted great attention from many countries and international organizations.

Egypt – Dr Mohamed Abu-Zeid El-Nahrawi

Egypt's agricultural strategy focuses on rational use of the available water, land, capital, and human resources with the objective of achieving the world's highest national average rice yield. As a result, cereal production in Egypt has been increased from 8 million tons in the eighties to more than 20 million tons in 2007 due to application of new technologies and high-yielding cultivars to maximize yield per unit of area and of water. To underpin that, Egypt has established an efficient extension group capable of transferring technology packages and a farmers training system. Other important activities include training young research scientists and specialists at different levels, locally and internationally at IRRI in the Philippines, US universities, Chinese research centers, South Korea, India and Japan. Egypt is also strengthening collaboration with different international organizations, particularly IRRI, JICA, FAO, CIAT, WARDA, USAID, and CAAS (China), and it is conducting national and international training programs for researchers on rice production technology.

For over 20 years Egypt's rice program has collaborated with JICA to hold annual rice production technology training courses with 30 participants from African rice-growing countries. The objectives of this training course are to, transfer new technologies to these countries, increase the productivity of the land under different ecosystems, identify problems and suggest solutions for biotic or abiotic stresses, identify the key elements for increasing yield, and to allow participants to exchange experience.

Egypt's Rice Research and Training Centre (RRTC) has seconded experts to Ghana, Niger and Sudan to work with local and Egyptian rice varieties to achieve significant yield improvements through a recommended technology package from the RRTC. It sees itself as a regional focal point for JICA, IRRI and WARDA, and is interested in establishing experimental sites and collaborative research and training projects in different African countries backed up by exchanges of personnel and materials.

Brazil – Dr Flavio Breseghello

Brazil has many similarities with Africa and the Brazilian Federal Government supports collaboration with developing countries for the promotion of food security, securing environmental preservation, strengthening diplomatic relations, enhancing economic and social development, preventing ethnic or religious separation and promoting cultural interchange. EMBRAPA (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation) abides by these guidelines and plays an active part in advancing them.

Areas in which EMBRAPA could help African rice production include transferring genetic resources, providing training and technical information, and making available blueprints and prototypes for small farming equipment. Its contribution could be more significant in rainfed systems because CGIAR germplasm is mostly applicable in irrigated systems. Assistance in capacity building could be provided through short courses, hands-on seasonal training and support for MSc or PhD programs in collaboration with local universities. These could cover rice breeding and seed production, soil preparation and conservation, rice crop management and post-harvest handling, and integrated pest management. EMBRAPA recognizes that it is essential to involve local institutions in any strategy for technology transfer.

Discussion

Participants noted that the annual growth of rice consumption globally is 1.7% but the increase in yield is only 1.5% which means that there is a structural gap which cannot be fended off indefinitely by using reserves. That is what makes CARD so important because there is a crisis coming and Africa must be competitive.

It was noted that the NRDS and the survey of Development Partner interventions provided a good information base which inspired confidence that CARD's goals could be achieved. The CARD Secretariat should work out how the knowledge acquired and experience could be integrated, perhaps by forming working groups on different themes, particularly on post-harvest issues and how to initiate partnerships with non-African countries, especially in training.

South-South collaboration should involve both training of Africans in Asia and Latin America but scientists, experts and trainers from those countries should also come to Africa to exchange information and material. There are many technologies that are suitable for transfer and the adapted transferred technologies should be freely exchanged regardless of their origins.

This cross-fertilization is good but periodic backstopping will be needed after the training to keep the trainees on track and also to ensure the training is well contextualized. In that regard the chances for sustained uptake of transferred technologies may be better if Africans bring them back with them rather than merely receive them.

In many parts of Africa rice will have to be integrated with other farming enterprises including livestock. In some areas it will be good to try to increase the size of land holdings to facilitate better soil and water management.

The development agencies such as IFAD prefer to support projects that have strong commitments to success and have clear objectives and achievable targets. CARD has all these characteristics except, so far, clear and strong commitment from national governments to provide resources to accelerate rice development.

There is a Congolese proverb that 'a bird does not fly with just one wing'. The collaboration indicated by the diverse partners in CARD will give it two wings but there must be clear allocation of tasks. As noted above, it seems from the presentations that everyone can collaborate in everything, but Africa's South-South collaboration should be carefully targeted with, for example, the transfer of hybrids and irrigated rice technologies to come from Egypt, rice processing and

new products from Asia, and upland varieties and rotations from Brazil. With an eight-criteria matrix it will be possible to segregate who should collaborate with whom on what.

To realize such collaboration it is necessary to get donor support and the AfDB gave an assurance that whatever option is translated into projects could be supported by the Bank. The bank could also include technical assistance in their project financing packages. AfDB is preparing the next stage of the NERICA rice project so those countries that are committed to it should start assembling the basic needs in readiness for project preparation when that starts.

While appreciating the opportunities being opened up by CARD for collaboration with Asian countries, Brazil and Egypt it would be interesting to learn more about what they are doing. For example, to what extent are they relying on expanding land area under rice cultivation. It will be very interesting to learn more about their rice sectors because, while Africa imports rice from Thailand, its 3 to 4 tonnes per ha reference yields are not so high. Côte d'Ivoire is, for example, aiming to reach 5 tonnes per ha. So what are the Asian countries doing to have such a surplus for export?

Conclusion

The Chair concluded that the partner countries had provided excellent presentations that illustrated their strengths and what they have to offer for African collaboration, and hoped that the three-continent endeavor would add significant value to the planning and implementation of rice development in Africa.

The Chair also stated that this was probably the first time that the diverse stakeholders had met face-to-face and they had made it clear that there is great potential and willingness to collaborate, and that both sides would gain from the collaboration, not just the Africans. At the same time, it also brought home that more donor support is needed to facilitate the collaboration. WARDA and IRRI are also expected to play a vital role to this end.

Taking the above points into consideration, the Meeting called for more effort to facilitate such cooperation, starting with discussion on ways to achieve effective South-South collaboration in rice development, and requested the CARD Initiative to facilitate such discussion.

7. Meeting conclusions and next steps

The participants formulated conclusions based on the deliberations during each session and the draft Chairman's Summary³ prepared by the co-chairs.

Regarding the future, there was a suggestion for time-bound actions for updating the NRDS, by elaborating aspects such as the proposals for South-South cooperation, the value-chain approach, gender issues and improving the overall quality of the papers. The Meeting also noted the importance of taking early action to accelerate the implementation of each NRDS so that the support and momentum that has been gained will not be lost. And it was agreed that the current, albeit imperfect, versions of the NRDS were well enough developed to at least guide short-term action.

As to the commitment to the Initiative of all the stakeholders, several participants suggested that the Executive Summary should send a strong message to the decision-makers to consider increased allocation of resources for rice-related interventions. At the same time, the NRDS must be seen to be aligned with the overarching national and regional development documents such as CAADP and PRSPs in which rice already plays a part. CARD should ensure that rice-related development secures its fair share in the context of each country without over-selling the virtues of rice development.

The Meeting restated CARD's belief in the importance of information sharing, and there was a call for the CARD Secretariat to accept responsibility for this, particularly to assist development partners to plan their projects and programs in a more efficient manner. It was clarified that it is not CARD's purpose to be an intermediary between countries and donors. Each country and donor has its own procedures and processes that must be followed. CARD is developing a common approach which can be refined and adapted as individual countries approach donors.

³ The Chairman's Summary was finalized after the Meeting through consultation with the Steering Committee members and it is attached as Annex 2 and 3.

The Meeting briefly discussed the next steps proposed in the Chairman's Summary. Firstly, the CARD Initiative should immediately establish coordination mechanisms, building on existing institutional frameworks, for the implementation of the NRDS in each country. This includes not only the coordination of rice-related interventions by relevant stakeholders, but also coordination for ensuring the alignment of NRDS to relevant development and finance frameworks, including CAADP and PRSPs to ensure political buy-in and adequate financing for rice-related investment. In the meantime, action should be taken to identify areas for immediate intervention and modalities at regional level.

Secondly, as a first step in the implementation of NRDS, the national CARD coordination mechanisms should: conduct detailed analyses of needs and resources to identify gaps and priority areas for intervention; elaborate and refine the NRDS to ensure that past experiences are well reflected; and conduct stakeholder consultations for coordination and harmonization of support measures, paying special attention to capacity building.

Thirdly, regarding South-South cooperation, modalities of support and cooperation from non-sub Saharan African countries should be encouraged and where appropriate facilitated by the Secretariat in collaboration with interested countries and institutions.

Lastly, the CARD Secretariat should establish a CARD information system and web page without delay to facilitate information sharing among the stakeholders.

8. Other business

The General Meeting endorsed the proposal of the Steering Committee to welcome the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank as new Steering Committee members.

It was noted that non members are welcome to attend Steering Committee meetings and to make technical contributions but, unlike members, do not have the right to vote and engage in administration of CARD.

The first-group countries agreed that their NRDS should be widely distributed to the public.

Supporting Partners present at the meeting agreed that the information given in the report 'Baseline Survey on Rice Related Projects in sub-Saharan Africa' should be made accessible to the public.

The next General Meeting will be held within one year, while, the next Steering Committee was tentatively scheduled for November 2009.

9. Chair's concluding statement

The Chair hoped that by the time of the 3rd CARD GM there will have been significant actions for the Meeting to review. The discussions had been frank and in-depth on common interests and concerns. Within one year since the launch of the Initiative a lot had been achieved: the Secretariat is up and running; there are 11 NRDS and 11 committed steering committee members; and many other things.

The NRDS – as everyone knew – were not perfect but they were a very good start and the Coalition must remain pragmatic. CARD had built up momentum and the partners need to get on with implementation.

The NRDS have ownership underpinned with political support at the highest political level. Therefore, the sooner that the countries can meet with their development partners to open the financing process the better it will be for sustaining the momentum. JICA's commitment is very strong. It is already supporting rice development projects and will start new ones. Other donors have said the same to support CARD's firm goal of doubling rice production.

The next steering committee meeting, in November 2009, will take stock of the early achievements and by the next General Meeting the parties will see a different landscape with a well harmonized approach.

The participants from the sub-Saharan countries, Egypt, the non-African countries and the international organizations were thanked for their commitment to CARD and their participation in CARD's second General Meeting.

The Chair applauded the CARD Secretariat which, despite being a very small unit had done good work and deserved the Coalition's thanks and appreciation. The contribution of the interpreters and JICA staff who worked hard behind the scenes was also recognized and appreciated. Finally, Mr. Oshima thanked Dr Ngongi for co-chairing the meeting.

MEETING PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Wednesday, 3rd June 2009

Time	Event	Presenter/Chair
08:30 -	Registration	
09:00 - 09:25	Opening Remarks	Mr. Kofi A Annan Chairman of the board, AGRA Dr. Sadako OGATA President, JICA
09:25 -	Break	
09:30 - 09:45	Report on the preparation process of NRDS	CARD Secretariat
09:45 - 12:30	Presentation of NRDS: Morning Session	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon
12:30 -13:30	Lunch	
13:40 -15:00	Presentation of NRDS: Afternoon Session	Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Mozambique, Madagascar
16:30 -16:45	Summary of the NRDS presentation by the expert	To be determined
16:45 -17:30	Discussion	
17:30 -19:30	Reception in the same venue	

DAY 2: Thursday, 4th June 2009

Time	Event	Presenter/Chair
09:00 -12:30	Donor's approach to rice development in Africa	To be determined (WB, AfDB, USAID, WARDA/IRRI, UNDP, JICA, AGRA, etc)
12:30 -14:00	Lunch	
14:00 -17:00	Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the domain of rice development	Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet-Nam, Egypt, Brazil
17:00 -17:30	Coffee Break	
17:30 -18:00	Wrap-up Session	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Governments of sub-Saharan Africa

Republic of Cameroon

Mr. Tobie Ondo Manga, Charge d'Etudes Assistant des Direction des Programmes et la Cooperation

Republic of Ghana

Mr. Richard Twumasi-Ankrah, Deputy Director, Directorate of Crop Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Republic of Guinea

Mr. Kaba Camara, General Director of Strategic and Development Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Republic of Kenya

Dr. Johnson Irungu Waithaka, Director of Agriculture and Crop Management, Ministry of Agriculture

Republic of Madagascar

Mr. Philbert Rakotoson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Republic of Mali

Dr. Mamadou Goita, Coordinator of Rice Initiative, Ministry of Agriculture

Republic of Mozambique

Mr. Marcelo Chaquisse, Deputy Director of Agricultural Service, Ministry of Agriculture

Federal Republic of Nigeria

Eng. Moses Ayodele Aiyelagbe, Adewuyi, Director, National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

Republic of Senegal

Seyni NDAO (Mr.), Director of Rural Planning and Development and Valley of Senegal River and Falme River

Republic of Sierra Leone

Dr. Abdulai Jalloh, Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute

United Republic of Tanzania

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Republic of Uganda

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Observer Governments/Sub-Regional Organizations of sub-Saharan Africa

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (observer)

Mr. Tayourou Silue, Director, National Rice Development, Ministry of Agriculture

Republic of Liberia (observer)

Dr. Moses Zinnah, Advisor, Agricultural Extension and Research, Ministry of Food and Agriculture

The Mano River Union (observer)

Mr. Simeon Momoh-Babbay Moribah, Deputy Secretary General of the MRU Secretariat

Governments of non-sub-Saharan African Countries

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Malaysia

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Republic of the Philippines

Mr. Ronilo Alejandro Beronio, Executive Director, Philippine Rice Research Institute

Kingdom of Thailand

Dr. Waree Chaitep, Director of Pathumthani Rice Research Center

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Ms. Thi Tuyet Hoa Nguyen, Vice Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Arab Republic of Egypt

Dr. Mohamed Abu-Zeid, El-Nahrawi, Director General, Field Crops Research Institute of the Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agricultural and land Reclamation

Federative Republic of Brazil

Dr. Flavio Breseghello, Director of Research & Development, EMBRAPA Rice & Beans

Supporting Partners

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African Development Bank (AfDB)

Dr. Harouna Dosso, Senior Agronomist

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Dr. George Birgwa , Program Officer

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Katherine Kahn, Senior Program Officer, Science and Technology Division

European Union

Mr. Dominic Al-Badri, Political Analyst, EC Delegation to Japan

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr. Shivaji Pandey, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Mr. Ralph Richard Von Kaufmann, Director for Capacity Strengthening

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Mr. Cheikh M. Sourang , Senior Programme Manager, Office of the Assistant President, IFAD Programme Management Department

International Rice Research Center (IRRI)

Dr. Robert Stewart Zeigler, Director General

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Dr. Akissa Bahri, Director for Africa

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Mr. Motofumi Kohara, Director, Rural Development Department.

Japan International Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

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New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)

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United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

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The World Bank

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World Food Program (WFP)

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

Mr. Akira Yamada, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau and Sub-Saharan African Affairs

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of Japan (MAFF)

Mr. Masahiko Suneya, Director, International Cooperation Division

Sasakawa Africa Association

Mr. Masaaki Miyamoto, Executive Director

Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID)

Dr. Keijiro Otsuka, GRIPS / FASID Graduate Program Director

Chairman's Summary of the Second General Meeting of CARD
Tokyo, 4th June 2009

The Second General Meeting of the “Coalition for African Rice Development” (CARD) convened in Tokyo on 3rd and 4th June 2009. The Meeting was attended by delegates from the 12 Sub-Saharan Africa countries in the first group of countries approved at the First General Meeting as well as from two observer African countries and the Secretariat of the Mano River Union. Participants from 21 organizations also joined the Meeting as Supporting Partners of the Initiative, along with seven non-SSA countries as South-South Cooperation partners for rice development in SSA.

Presentations were made and discussions held on the following topics:

1. National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) of the first group of countries

The 12 countries presented their NRDS to the Meeting, followed by general observations and comments by WARDA on behalf of the Steering Committee members.

The session produced the following conclusions:

The participants acknowledged and appreciated the efforts made by each country and the assistance provided by the Coalition towards elaborating NRDS within a limited timeframe.

The NRDS should be considered as living documents and should undergo further elaboration as soon as possible to, *inter alia*, sharpen prioritization and articulate approaches.

Human capacity development and financial commitment are key priority issues for implementation of successful rice development.

The importance of country ownership and coordination for the effective implementation of NRDS among stakeholders within a country as well as between a country and Supporting Partners was emphasized.

2. Supporting Partners' approach to African rice development

Supporting Partners made presentations on their approaches to rice development in SSA, and their assessment of the needs of the first-group countries.

The discussion concluded that:

While each Partner has shown its comparative advantages in rice development, more coordination among African rice producing countries and Supporting

Partners will be needed to bring about more efficient and effective investment in the rice sector in SSA.

To this end, a more comprehensive information system should be established in order to capture and share information among relevant stakeholders.

3. South-South Cooperation for rice development in SSA

Non-SSA countries made presentations on their experience in rice development and, where appropriate, their collaboration with African countries. The participants appreciated their willingness and capacity to provide technical assistance to African rice development

The discussion concluded as follows:

13. South-South cooperation will be an essential component for achieving NRDS goals. Each country has unique expertise which it can offer based on its own experience.
14. The experience of these countries, particularly in capacity building, technology transfer and management of demonstrations would add value to the planning and implementation of rice development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
15. Necessary arrangements should be made to enable these countries to provide technical assistance.

4. Next steps

Based on the presentations and discussions above, the Meeting felt the need to maintain the momentum of the Initiative and to this end recommended the following actions:

Coordination

At national level

Make coordination mechanisms operational for the implementation of NRDS

Ensure alignment of NRDS to relevant development and finance frameworks, including CAADP and PRSPs for political buy-in and adequate financing for rice-related investment

At regional level

Identify areas of intervention and modalities

Implementation of NRDS

Conduct detailed analysis of needs-resource matching to identify gaps and priority areas for intervention.

Elaborate each sub-sector strategy, making sure that past experience is well reflected.

Conduct stakeholder consultation for coordination and harmonization of support measures, paying special attention to capacity building.

South-South cooperation

Modality of support / cooperation from non-SSA countries should be encouraged and where appropriate facilitated by the Secretariat in collaboration with interested countries / institutions.

Information system

Establish CARD information system and web page

5. Other business

The General Meeting endorsed the proposal of the Steering Committee to add the African Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank as new Steering Committee members.

The first-group countries agreed that the NRDS should be widely distributed to the public.

Supporting Partners present at the meeting agreed that the information given in the report 'Baseline Survey on Rice Related Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa' be accessible to the public.

The next General Meeting will be held within one year. Meanwhile, the next Steering Committee will take place tentatively in November 2009.

Résumé du Président de la deuxième Assemblée générale de la CARD**Tokyo, 4 juin 2009**

La deuxième Assemblée générale de la « Coalition pour le développement du riz en Afrique » (CARD) s'est tenue à Tokyo du 3 au 4 juin 2009. La réunion a réuni des délégués des 12 pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne appartenant au premier groupe de pays sélectionnés lors de la première Assemblée générale. Les représentants de deux pays observateurs africains et du Secrétariat de l'Union de la rivière Mano ainsi que des participants de 21 organisations ont aussi pris part à la réunion en tant partenaires de l'Initiative. Sept pays qui ne font pas partie de l'Afrique subsaharienne ont été représentés dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud pour le développement de la riziculture en ASS.

Lors de l'Assemblée, les présentations et les débats ont porté sur les questions suivantes :

1. Les Stratégies nationales de développement de la riziculture (SNDR) du premier groupe de pays.

Les douze pays ont présenté leurs SNDR devant l'Assemblée, qui ont été suivies d'observations et de commentaires généraux de l'ADRAO au nom des membres du comité directeur.

Les conclusions de la session sont les suivantes :

Les participants ont reconnu et apprécié les efforts consentis par chaque pays et l'aide fournie par la Coalition en vue de l'élaboration des SNDR selon un calendrier déterminé.

Les SNDR doivent être considérées comme des documents évolutifs et doivent faire l'objet de modifications le plus vite possible, pour, entre autres, affiner la fixation des priorités et les approches claires.

Le développement des capacités humaines et un engagement financier constituent des questions clefs et prioritaires pour une mise en oeuvre réussie du développement de la riziculture.

Il a été souligné l'importance de l'appropriation par les pays et de la coordination par les pays en vue d'une mise en oeuvre efficace des SNDR auprès des acteurs au sein d'un pays, mais aussi entre un pays et les partenaires.

2. Soutien de l'approche de partenariat pour le développement de la riziculture en Afrique

Les partenaires ont présenté leurs approches au développement rizicole en ASS, et leur évaluation des besoins des pays du premier groupe.

Les conclusions qui découlent de ces discussions sont les suivantes :

Bien que chaque partenaire ait présenté ses avantages comparatifs en matière de développement rizicole, il faut davantage de coordination parmi les pays africains producteurs de riz. Les partenaires quant à eux devront attirer plus d'investissements efficaces et efficients vers le secteur rizicole en ASS.

Pour ce faire, il faut mettre en place un système d'informations complet afin de documenter et de partager les informations entre les acteurs concernés.

3. Une coopération Sud-Sud pour le développement de la riziculture en ASS.

Les présentations des pays n'appartenant pas à l'Afrique subsaharienne ont porté sur leur propre expérience en développement rizicole, mais également sur leur collaboration avec les pays africains. Les participants ont apprécié la volonté et la capacité de ces pays à fournir un soutien technique au développement de la riziculture en Afrique.

Les conclusions de la discussion sont les suivantes :

16. La coopération Sud-Sud sera une composante essentielle pour atteindre les objectifs des SNDR. Chaque pays possède une expertise unique qu'il peut offrir selon sa propre expérience.
17. L'expérience de ces pays, surtout en matière de renforcement des capacités, de transfert de technologies, de gestion de démonstrations permettrait de valoriser la planification et la mise en oeuvre du développement de la riziculture en Afrique subsaharienne.
18. Des dispositions doivent être prises pour permettre à ces pays d'apporter un soutien technique.

4. Les prochaines étapes

En s'appuyant sur les présentations et les débats ci-dessus, l'Assemblée a estimé qu'il y avait lieu de maintenir l'élan actuel de l'Initiative, et à cette fin a recommandé les actions suivantes :

Coordination

Au niveau national

Rendre fonctionnel les mécanismes de coordination pour la mise en oeuvre des SNDR.

Garantir la conformité des SNDR aux cadres pertinents du développement et de la finance, notamment les CAADP et les PRSP pour un ralliement politique et l'octroi de financements adéquats en vue d'investissements dans le secteur rizicole.

Au niveau régional

Identifier les modalités et les zones d'intervention.

La mise en oeuvre des SNDR

Effectuer une analyse détaillée des besoins-ressources pour identifier des faiblesses et les zones prioritaires pour une intervention.

Approfondir les stratégies de chaque sous-secteur, s'assurer que les expériences sont bien reflétées.

Effectuer une consultation auprès des acteurs pour une coordination et harmonisation des mesures de soutien tout en accordant une attention particulière au renforcement des capacités.

Coopération Sud-Sud

Les modalités du soutien/coopération de la part des pays n'appartenant à l'ASS doivent être encouragées et facilitées par le Secrétariat en collaboration avec les pays/institutions intéressées.

Système d'informations

Mettre en place un système d'informations de la CARD et créer une page web

5. Divers

L'Assemblée générale a approuvé la proposition du comité directeur d'inclure la Banque africaine de développement, le Fonds international pour le développement agricole et la Banque mondiale en tant que membres du comité directeur.

Le premier groupe de pays reste unanime sur le fait que les SNDR doivent être largement diffusées auprès du public.

Les partenaires présents à l'Assemblée ont reconnu que les informations figurant dans le rapport sur « l'Étude préliminaire sur les Projets liés à la riziculture en Afrique subsaharienne » soient accessibles au public.

La prochaine Assemblée générale se tiendra dans un an. D'ici là, il a été proposé que le prochain Comité directeur se réunisse en novembre 2009.