

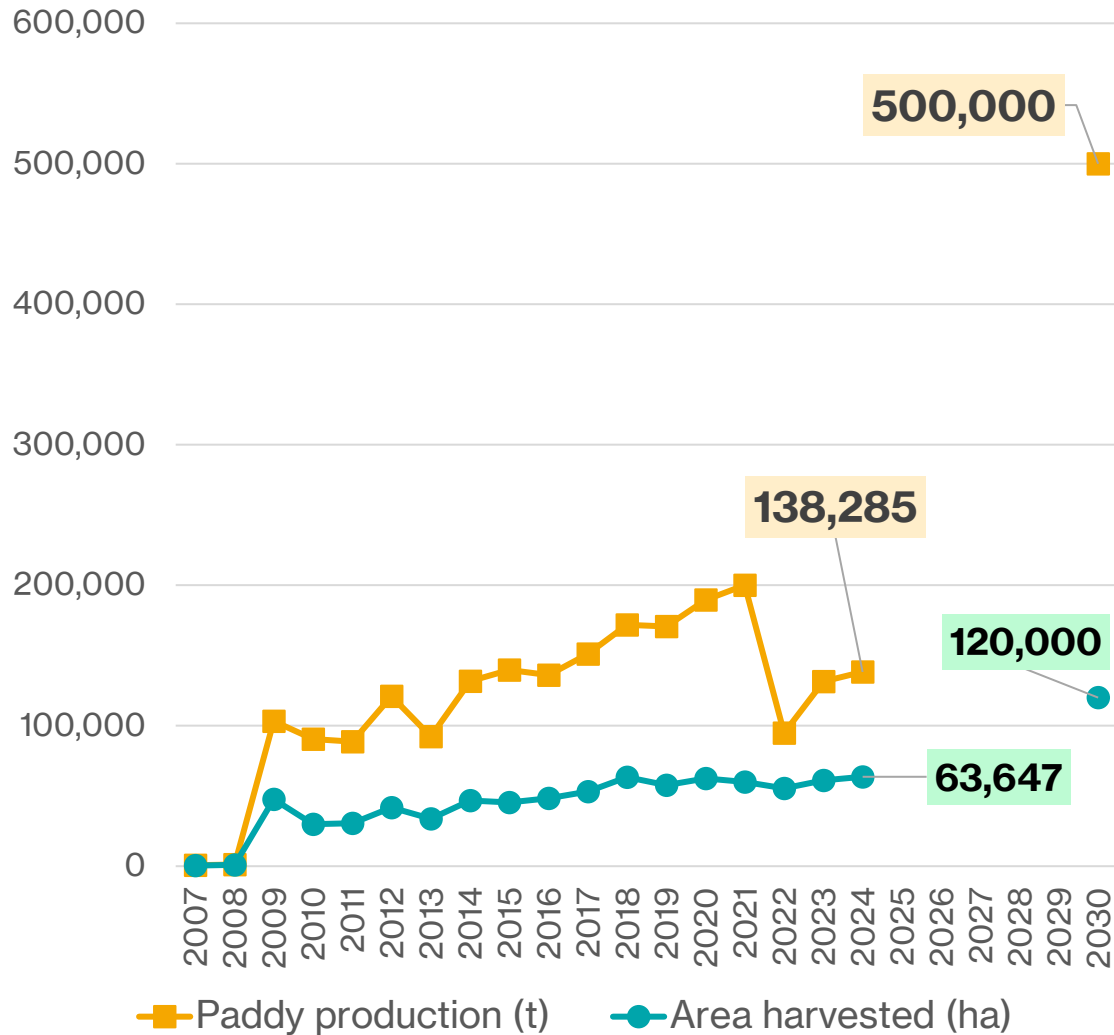
Update of the formulation of the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) in Sierra Leone



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NRDS Focal Point

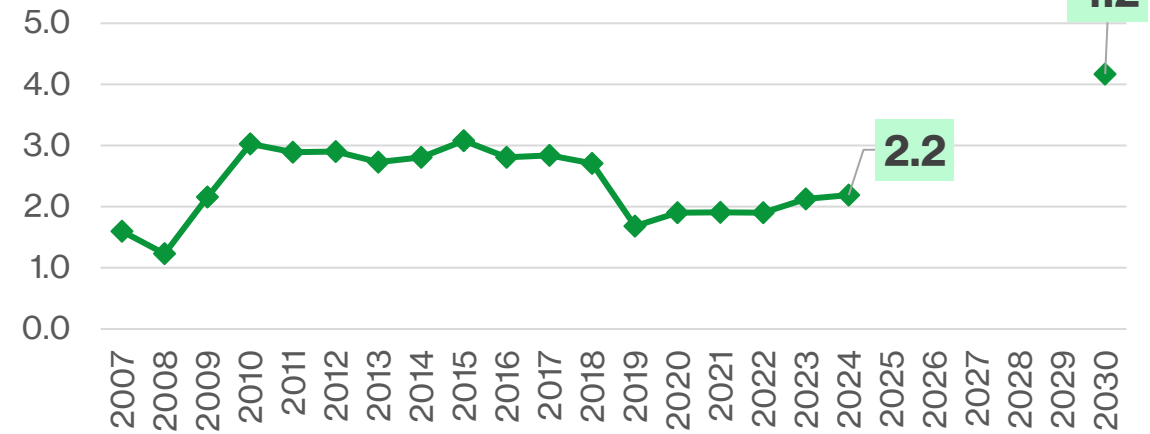
Overall indicators

Paddy production and Area harvested



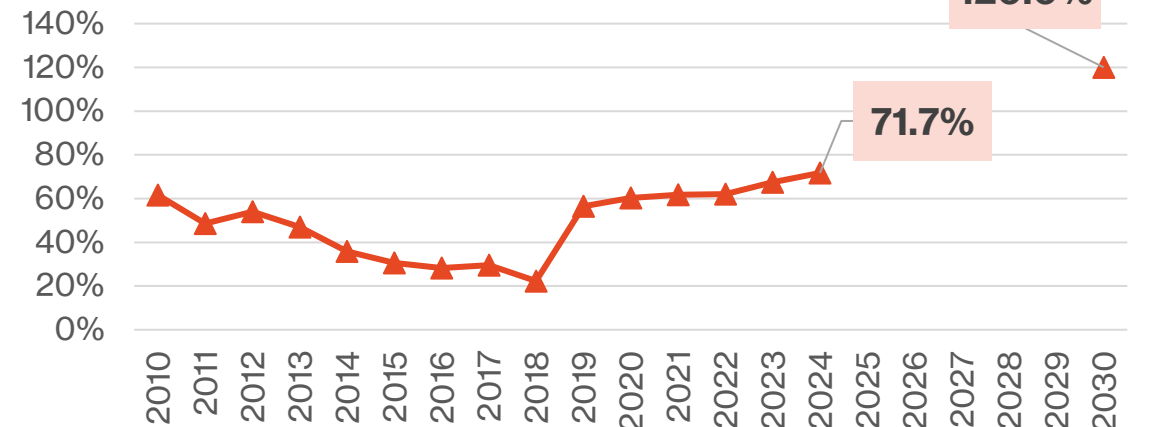
Source: 2024 Sierra Leone Crop Yield and Production Report

Yield (t/ha)



Source: 2024 Sierra Leone Crop Yield and Production Report

Self-sufficiency ratio (%)



2024 Sierra Leone Crop Yield and Production Report

Progress of CARD Activities since GM9

Progress on NRDS Processes Elaboration Phase

<NRDS>

- Validation Workshop was done in Jan. 2023 involving key stakeholders and top Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security officials including the Hon. Minister for approval; funded by JICA.

<Concept Notes>

- Elaboration Workshop was done in Feb. 2024 involving NRDS Task Force Members and key stakeholders in the rice sector including the private sector.
- Engagement with some development partners (GIZ, UNDP, WFP, AfDB & World Bank) was done prior to the Concept Notes Development Workshop in Feb. 2024 with CARD Regional Consultant

Progress on NRDS Monitoring Phase

<Monitoring Data Setting>

- Monitoring indicators were identified during the hybrid NRDS M&E Kick off meeting workshop for elaboration of NRDS Concept Notes in Feb. 2024

<ARSRM and Implementation >

- The 1st ARSRM and preparatory meeting for the development of the National Rice Investment Action Plan (NRIAP) – hybrid meeting was held in October 2025 in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Rice Observatory (SLeRO); funded by the World Bank Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP)

Implementation of NRDS and Lesson shared

Overview of major project(s) started since GM 9

Partner	Period	Project Name	Amount
AfDB, OPEC	2026- 2031	SAPZ – Sierra Leone Rice Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Project	75 million USD

Good example and Challenge in terms of implementing the NRDS

<Challenge>

- Limited investment in the rice sector by development partners and the private sector.
- Funding skewed towards some thematic areas thus crippling progress in other critical areas.

<Good Example>

- NRDS clearly aligned with government national priorities for rice sector development – Feed Salone Strategy (2023 – 2028)
- Value chain approach considered in the development of new rice related projects
- Innovative Platform for rice sector development in place (SLeRO)

Action Plans for 2026

Action 1: Capitalization of Sierra Leone Rice Investment Plan

- Engage ERO, ECOWAS and the Ministry of Finance to ensure fulfilment of donor pledges following the proposed Investment Round Table in the first quarter of 2026 by ERO for implementation of the National Rice Investment Action Plan.

Action 2: Organize 2nd Annual Rice Sector Review Meeting (ARSRM)

- Share Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with key stakeholders including the private sector to inform data collection early in 2026.
- Hold NRDS Task Force preparatory meeting for ARSRM
- Conduct 2nd ARSRM