



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND FOOD

The rice sector in new CARD member countries: Gabon

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A photograph of a rice field with a narrow irrigation canal in the foreground. The rice plants are green and growing. In the background, there are trees and a netting structure. A small wooden sign is visible in the field.

Overview

Context

I. Gabon's NRDS

II. Rice sector structure

III. Expectations for the CARD

initiative

Conclusion

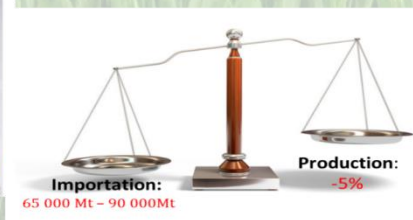
Context: the rice sector in Gabon 1/2

The rice sector in numbers

- ❑ Total surface: 267,667 km²
- ❑ Arable land: 4,000,000 ha
- ❑ Population (2018) : 2.025 million (83% urban and 13% rural)
- ❑ Rainfall: 2800mm/year (www.ifad.org)
- ❑ Gabon has a long history of growing rice but supply remains lower than demand

❑ **Food imports: 80% or ≈ 550 billion/year**

Including 65,000_70,000T/year of rice (≥8 billion/year)
(www.lenouveaugabon.com)



Context: the rice sector in Gabon 2/2

Main challenges

- ❑ Improving the rice farming system in the face of climate change and population growth;
- ❑ Promoting industrialisation and private sector involvement;
- ❑ Improving the sector's competitiveness;
- ❑ Allowing existing research and extension bodies to further their work on rice farming.

Opportunities

- ❑ Gabon has **≈ 4,000,000 ha of arable land; high rainfall (2000mm_3500mm); a significant hydrographic network.**
- ❑ A youth unemployment rate which fluctuated between **20-30%** in 2020 (youth employability);
- ❑ A growing market demand for rice (**90%** consumption);
- ❑ A government which hopes to revitalise the rice sector (joined CARD in 2018).

I.

Gabon's NRDS

1/3

Overall aim: to reduce poverty and reliance on imports by promoting the competitive local production of high-quality rice to meet consumer demands.

❑ Specific aims

- ❑ **Promote rice production to reach 130,000T by 2030:** facilitate access to modern developments (seeds), resources (fertiliser and plant protection products) and agricultural equipment to allow for highly productive rice farms and successful yields.
- ❑ **Structure and organise the rice sector:** form organisations to unite participants from all stages of the rice value chain, in order to ensure that all actions are collaborative, balanced and coherent and that they integrate both the public and the private sector.

I.

Gabon's NRDS

2/3

Climate-based rice production planning

	Rainfed rice farming			Irrigated rice farming			Total or average		
Years	Surface (ha)	Potential yield (t/ha)	Expected production (tonnes)	Surface (ha)	Potential yield (t/ha)	Production (tonnes)	Surface (ha)	Potential yield (t/ha)	Expected production (tonnes)
1-5	5,000	2	10,000	3,000	4	12,000	8,000	2.75	22,000
6-8	15,000	2.5	37,500	8,000	5.5	44,000	23,000	3.5	81,500
9 and 10	25,000	3	75,000	13,000	6.5	84,500	38,000	4.2	159,000

Priority actions

	Actions	Period
1	Set up rice farming areas (irrigated and rainfed).	2020-2030
2	Implement a seed system, ensure its functionality and make high-quality seed readily available.	2020-2030
3	Mechanise rice farming (from soil preparation to post-harvest treatment).	2020-2030
4	Create the necessary post-harvest conditions to ensure the increased availability of local, high-quality rice in our markets.	2020-2030
5	Facilitate farmers' access to fertiliser and plant protection products.	2020-2030

II. Rice sector structure in Gabon

Organisation	Role
Public Sector	
Ministry of Agriculture (Director-General ; Directorate for Plant Protection (DPV) ; DS ; Agricultural Development Agency of Gabon (ADAG) ; National Agency for Food Security (AGASA)	Promoting rice farming
Ministry of Scientific Research (PNSAV-PS /IRAF ,IRT and IRSH)	Conducting research on quality rice seed
Private Sector	
Importers, Distributors, Shops	Importing and selling rice with a poor understanding of the varieties sold
Financial and technical rice farming development partners	
JICA	Operational support for trainers and future farmers; funding (providing equipment)
CARD	Technical support; operational support; providing funding, etc.)
KAFACI	Technical support; operational support (training) and funding for projects related to variety development and establishing a formal seed system
AfricaRice	Technical support and providing seed
OAPI	Operational support

III. Expectations for the CARD initiative 1/1

- Facilitate the creation of an donor advisory group to financially support the strategy;**
- Support the search for best practices to improve private sector implication and an increase in bank financing;**
- Facilitate South-South trade;**
- Facilitate the NRDS' request for high-level support;**
- Reinforce the technical and operational capacities of participants along the rice value chain;**
- Reinforce TFR members' advocacy and monitoring/evaluation capacities.**

*Thank you for your
attention*

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