

**REPUBLIC OF NIGER**



**Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock**

# **National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) Formulation Methodology**

**October 2021**

# OVERVIEW

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# 1. Context

- **Rice is the 3rd national crop after millet and sorghum**
- **Production rose from almost 86,000 tonnes in 2008 to 115,585 tonnes in 2018**  
an average yearly growth rate of 3.5% (over 10 years)
- **Despite this growth, production covers only 1/6 of national annual requirement** (435,150 tonnes of white rice), **making it necessary to rely on imports costing almost 165 billion CFA francs**
- Agricultural policy was recently revised with the aim of reversing this trend. This involved the implementation of new agricultural strategies (“Initiative 3N” and the Economic and Social Development Plan (ESDP))
- **Thanks to the lessons learnt from the first NRDS which was created in 2009 by the FAO/JICA but not ratified, the government has decided to update its rice development policy in the hope of achieving self sufficiency by 2025.**

# 2. The rice sector

## 2.1 Rice policy overview

- The government has adopted a “FNS/SAD” (Food and Nutritional Security/Sustainable Agricultural Development) framework strategy called “Initiative 3N” (Nigeriens Feeding Nigeriens)
- To implement this policy, **the Nigerien government has developed a strategy which directly supports producers, the SNALAP (The strategy for local procurement from smallholder producers) and the reform of ONAHA by Order No. 2014-01 of January 3, 2014, amending and supplementing Order No. 78-39 of December 28, 1978, creating the Office National des Aménagements Hydro-agricoles (ONAHA)**
- This strategy aims to increase irrigated crops’ contribution to agricultural GDP from 40% in 2015 to 45% in 2025. This will be achieved by developing 40,000 ha of land for large-scale irrigation and 30,000 ha for small-scale irrigation in 5 years, as well as 158,000 ha for recession crops.

## 2.2 Overview of investments in the rice sector

- In the Nigerien rice sector, **a variety of partners are running over 30 projects with a total cost of around 100 million USD**
- However, analysis of these projects’ place in the value chain shows that they are highly concentrated around land development, production and capacity-building.

# 2. The rice sector

- **2.3 Performance of the rice sector following the NRDS-1**
  - **Estimated rice production in 2018 was 115,585 tonnes of paddy rice, of which 78.5% was produced in specially developed areas**
  - Production grew from 86,000 tonnes in 2008 to 115,585 tonnes in 2018, an average yearly growth rate of 3.5%. Yields have been stagnant for 10 years, at 5.8 tonnes per hectare for hydro-agricultural developments and 0.7-1.5 tonnes per hectare for non hydro-agricultural developments, with great room for improvement.
  - **Rice production is meeting local requirements less than before. It met 22.3% of local demand in 2010 and only 17.3% in 2018 (growing population, high urbanisation and changing diets)**
  - Rural rice transformation is predominant (88% of produced paddy rice); the sector's participants are well organised; many development partners are present and investment in the sector continues to grow.
  - During NRDS-1, ½ of rice value chain participants had no experience requesting loans from financial institutions, although various such institutions exist.

# 3. Lessons learned from implementation of NRDS1

The first NRDS estimated Niger would reach food self sufficiency in 2020 and be producing 420,000 tonnes of paddy rice. **In reality, we are far from these estimations (27% achieved), which is why the new strategy must be more realistic, by:**

- **Mapping the value chain, hydro-agricultural potential and the current situation, in order to determine which types of restoration and/or development are the most suitable** with the goal of accelerating development
- Applying a value chain approach; accounting for the sector's vulnerability due to climate change; identifying high-yield varieties and the regions with the least technical challenges in order to transform the entire rice value chain; promoting contracts; helping participants produce high-quality rice; reducing intermediaries and the cost of electricity.
- **Facilitating the strategy's implementation by ensuring all partners are involved in its creation**

# 4. What does the current NRDS look like?

- **4.1 Vision, specific and general objectives**

**Vision =** for the rice sector to meet national demand and to improve food and nutritional security and the reduction of the rice trade deficit by 2020.

- **General objective:** contribute in the medium term to the sustainable growth of the abundant national production of high-quality rice, in order to, in the long term, meet consumers' needs and demands and export sub-regionally and internationally.
- **Specific objectives:**
  - SO1: increase rice production and the sector's productivity
  - SO2: promote the transformation, sale and competitiveness of local rice
  - SO3: improve the sector's institutions and participants' technical and organisational capacities.

**These are also 3N's objectives**

**“Focus 1: increasing and diversifying agricultural, livestock, fishing and forestry production”**

**“Focus 2: regularly providing rural and urban markets with both fresh and processed food.”**

# 4. What does the NRDS 2 look like?

- 4.1 Vision and scope (target)

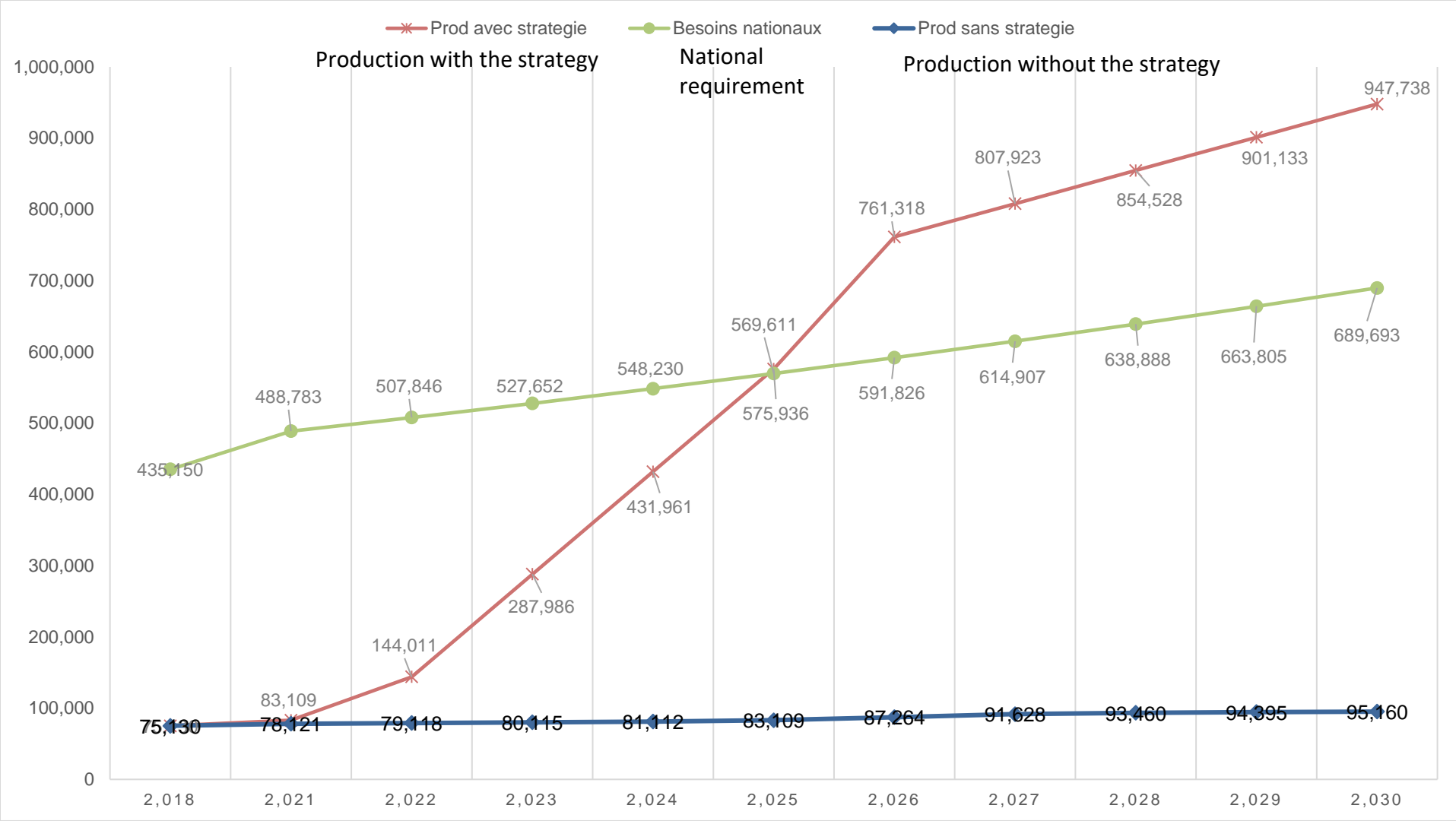
Farming area	2025 without the strategy			2025 with the strategy		
	Hectares	Yield	Production (t)	Hectares	Yield	Production (t)
AHA*	17,907	5.8	103,861	42,507	8	340,056
HA**	16,000	1.5	24,000	156,000	3.5	546,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,907</b>		<b>127,861</b>	<b>198,507</b>		<b>886,056</b>
Net rice production			83,109			575,936
Net national rice demand in 2025 (tonnes)			569,611			569,611
<b>Production gap (surplus)</b>			<b>-486,501</b>			<b>6,326</b>

Farming area	2030 without the strategy			2030 with the strategy		
	Hectares	Yield	Production (t)	Hectares	Yield	Production (t)
AHA*	20,000	5.8	116,000	82,507	8.4	693,059
HA**	16,000	1.9	30,400	170,000	4.5	765,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,000</b>		<b>146,400</b>	<b>252,507</b>		<b>1,458,059</b>
Net rice production			95,160			947,738
Net national rice demand in 2030 (tonnes)			689,693			689,693
<b>Production gap (surplus)</b>			<b>-594,533</b>			<b>258,045</b>

\*AHA: Aménagement Hydro-Agricole (= Irrigation scheme)

\*\*HA: Hors Aménagement (= Outside irrigation scheme)





# 4. What does the NRDS 2 look like?

- **4.2 NRDS components**

- **Improving production systems' resilience and increasing production levels:** producing high-quality rice at any time, in any place, whilst accounting for external factors such as climate change, population growth and the increase in domestic demand.
- **Making high-quality, competitive, local white rice available on the market:** promoting industrialisation, marketing, competitiveness and private sector involvement across the regional value chain
- **Strengthening the work force and improving organisation across the regional rice value chain:** improving value chain participants' organisation and their technical and financial capacities

# 4. What does the NRDS 2 look like?

- **4.2 NRDS components (continued)**
- **To ensure the success of these different components, the NRDS has been designed with the lessons drawn from the following in mind:**
  - **ONAHA (the National Office for Hydro-Agricultural Development)'s experience, especially in regards to timing, costs and the importance of understanding rice-growing potential in different ecologies**
  - INRAN's (the National Agricultural Research Institute of Niger)'s research on new, resilient production systems (seeds, fertilisers, SRI results, etc.)
  - RINI (Nigerien rice company's) experience transforming rice and especially with contractualisation
  - FUCOPRI (the Federation of Unions of Rice)'s feedback on the most suitable organisation strategies

# 4. What does the NRDS 2 look like?

- **4.3 Implementation framework**

The framework outlines the tools and organisations necessary to implementation.

- The implementation tools are essentially the Multiannual Budget Programming Document (DPPD), elaborated by ONAHA (coordinating structure), the proposals and the communication plan
- Several organisations are involved in the NRDS' implementation: the state, local authorities, private companies (professional/inter-professional structures), technical and financial partners.
- **The institutional framework is as follows:**
  - **The NRDS Consultative Committee (CC-SNDR)**, through ONAHA which coordinates activities conducted within the framework of NRDS and ensures the successful coordination of different value chain participants
  - **The National Steering Committee (CNP-SNDR)**, coordinates all activities with a secretariat to put them into operation
  - **The Communal Commission for Rural Development (CC-DR)**, arbitrates investment decisions at a local level

# 5. Conclusion

- **The NRDS' creation demonstrates the government's willingness to coordinate policy and sector strategy with the I3N initiative and to make rice a key element of the plan to reach food and nutritional security in Niger, which has high rice-growing potential.** The strategy's expected results remain dependent on the government's political commitment to provide the necessary human, financial and material resources.
- The strategy's success also depends on all technical and financial partners' willingness to support the government in its implementation.
- **The strategy's adoption on different levels, in particular by rice producers and local authorities, but also by investors committed to supporting the sector, is also key to achieving the defined aims.**

*Thank you  
for your  
attention*

