



# EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

*One People, One Destiny*

# Promoting Integrated Rice Sector Development in the EAC Region

## Regional Rice Development Strategy and its implementation

**8<sup>th</sup> CARD GENERAL MEETING**  
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# THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

## In Brief

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional inter-governmental organization of the Republic of **Burundi**, Republic of **Kenya**, Republic of **Rwanda**, Republic of **South Sudan**, the United Republic of **Tanzania**, and the Republic of **Uganda**, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

## Vision

A prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa.

## Mission

To widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production and investment.

## Quick Figures



Total Surface Area  
2.5 million sq. km



Population  
177 million <sup>(2019)</sup>



GDP Nominal  
US\$ 193.7 billion <sup>(2019)</sup>



# EAC REGIONAL INTEGRATION PILLARS

## A HIGHLIGHT

### CUSTOMS UNION

**2005**

Enabling the EAC Partner States to enjoy economies of scale, with a view to supporting the process of economic development through the establishment of a Single Customs Territory.

### COMMON MARKET

**2010**

Accelerating economic growth and development while maintaining a liberal stance towards the 5 Freedoms of movement for all factors of production in the region.

### MONETARY UNION

**2013**

Laying the groundwork within a 10-year span, while allowing the EAC Partner States to progressively converge their currencies into a single currency in the Community.

### POLITICAL FEDERATION

**ONGOING**

Putting in place initiatives to fast-track political integration. In May 2017 EAC Heads of State adopted the **Political Confederation** as a transitional model of the East African Political Federation.



# Undertakings of EAC in rice sector development

- ❑ **The Competitive African Rice Initiative in East Africa (CARI-EA)** Project is a 3-year (2019 – 2022) project commissioned by USAID through AGRA under the framework of Promoting Inclusive Transformation in Africa (PIATA) with a total funding of US\$ 3.13 Million. The project is implemented at about 90% by Kilimo Trust and 10% by the EAC Secretariat.

The project's overall goal is to contribute to inclusive transformation of the rice sector in East Africa for sustainable increase in incomes of 220,000 people employed in the value chain of locally produced rice in the EAC, benefiting another 440,000 households indirectly.

- ❑ **The Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) and EAC collaboration** started in January 2019 after EAC became a member of CARD Steering Committee. This has complemented the work under CARI-EA to support the improvement in agricultural policy environment for rice trade at both national and regional level through engagements with wider stakeholders.

The following have been achieved **through CARD – EAC Collaboration**;

1. Launching and operationalization of **EAC Regional Rice Platform (ERRP)** - *(January 2020)*.
2. Drafting of the **EAC Regional Rice Development Strategy (EARDS)** - *(since March 2020)*.
3. CARD supports to the EAC Partner States to develop their National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) – *(with exception of the Republic of South Sudan)*



# EAC Regional Rice Platform



- ❑ **The EAC Regional Rice Platform (ERRP)** was established in December 2018 by the directive of the 12<sup>th</sup> SCAFS with the mandate to promote rice sub-sector in the EAC region.
- ❑ The ERRP was launched in Nairobi on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.
- ❑ The ERRP creates a space for rice stakeholders from EAC partner states to share and resolve the various challenges on rice sector development in the region.
- ❑ The ERRP is composed of 12 nominated members, two from each Partner States representing public and private sectors.
- ❑ Co-opted/invited members on case by case are also allowed.

**Group Photo during launching of the EAC Regional Rice Platform at Nairobi Safari Club**



# Regional Rice Development Strategy and its Implementation

## Rationale of the EAC Regional Rice Development Strategy (EARDS)

- ❑ Rice is the second most important food crop (after maize) in EAC. Due to a huge gap between market demand and local supply, the region imported 1.36 million tons valued at 630 million USD in 2019 – amounts to about one-fourth of Africa's total rice imports. Thus, there is a lot of potential to increasing local production which will allow to reduce the ballooning importation bill of rice and minimize trade deficits in the region.
- ❑ Despite the huge potential for expansion of rice production and supply in the region, the sector is still facing limitations in regional coherence of interventions on rice-related inputs, services, capital investments and technologies that inhibit the region's potential.
- ❑ **The EAC Regional Rice Development Strategy (EARDS)** aims at promoting trade amongst the EAC Partner States along the rice value chain. By complementing the NRDS of the Partner States, the EARDS will help streamline and promote rice production and trade within the region through a holistic approach.
- ❑ With technical support from CARD and CARI-EA, EAC Secretariat started the EARDS development process in March 2020 and it is progressing well despite challenges due to COVID 19 Pandemic.



# EAC Regional Rice Development Strategy

## Way forward in the development of the EARDS

- ❑ In October 2020, in-country validation of the rice sector's SWOT analysis was conducted in each Partner State to pave way for the formulation of the regional SWOT analysis and drafting of the Strategy.
- ❑ Following successful national validation meetings, the following is planned as next steps in 2021:
  - i. Consolidate Country SWOTs into Regional SWOT;
  - ii. Setting priorities and agendas for the EARDS that will effectively help build strengths, eliminate weaknesses, exploit opportunities and mitigate the effects of threats in the region;
  - iii. Establish a framework for the EARDS [*timeline, vision, mission, objectives, strategic interventions, key outputs, indicators, action plan and implementation, monitoring & evaluation*];
  - iv. validation of draft EARDS at regional level; and
  - v. subsequently submission of the validated EARDS to the Sectoral Council of Agriculture and Food Security for consideration prior to submission of the same to Council of Ministers for adoption.
- ❑ **EAC acknowledged the support we are receiving from USAID and AGRA on the regional initiatives to promote rice value chain and further appeal to other CARD Steering Committee Members and Development Partners for their concerted effort to support EARDS practical implementation once adopted such as development of regional rice programme.**







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# Regional Rice Development Strategy and its Implementation

## 1. What is the Regional Strategy planning to contribute to?

- ❑ Regional Rice Development Strategy (RRDS) is meant to be a roadmap for an integrated rice sector development at the regional level and is expected to complement the implementation of NRDS at the national levels. It also aims at promoting rice production and trade within the region through a holistic approach along the rice value chain.

## 2. How can we empower the Regional Strategy to work better to complement the implementation of NRDSs?

- ❑ Support establishment and implementation of integrated rice development programmes at regional level that aim at promoting rice production and trade within the region.
- ❑ Support establishment and operationalization of inclusive Regional Rice Platform to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of implementation of RRDS

# Regional Rice Development Strategy and its Implementation

## 3. How should it be put into action? What will be the most effective mechanisms and strategies for its implementation?

- ❑ Effective implementation of RRDS will depend on the active, integrated and holistic involvement of all the rice stakeholders in the region.
- ❑ Since CARD Phase 2 advocates for a RICE approach, the implementation of RRDS should also be based on a RICE approach; whereby Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness and Empowerment (RICE) will be emphasized during the implementation.
  - i. *Through the Resilience (R) approach, stability in rice production will be asserted in the face of climate change and the rising population growth*
  - ii. *Industrialization (I) approaches will help engage rural and urban enterprises (micro, small, medium and macro) in production, processing, value addition and marketing of the locally produced rice*
  - iii. *The quality and value of the locally produced rice will be enhanced through approaches that will sharpen the Competitiveness (C) of the locally produced rice over the imported rice*
  - iv. *Empowerment (E) of all the relevant stakeholders (including women and youth) in harnessing the socio-economic rewards of rice farming will be reinforced during the implementation*



# Regional Rice Development Strategy and its Implementation

## 4. How can we support other RECs to develop similar strategies for their respective regions, and what should be the likely roadmap and timeline?

- ❑ Support RECs to mobilize resources to establish an inclusive Rice Platform at regional level;
- ❑ Engage consultant(s) to work with Rice Platform members to formulate RRDS;
- ❑ The roadmap should be as follows with 6 – 12 months timeline depending on the resource--availability;
  - i. Development of SWOT analysis at national level
  - ii. Consolidate Country SWOTs into Regional SWOT;
  - iii. Setting priorities for the RRDS that will effectively help build strengths, eliminate weaknesses, exploit opportunities and mitigate the effects of threats in the region;
  - iv. Establish a framework for the RRDS [timeline, vision, mission, objectives, strategic interventions, key outputs, indicators, action plan and implementation, monitoring & evaluation]; and
  - v. Drafting, validation and adoption of draft RRDS at regional level;

