

**The Eighth General Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development**  
**6 – 7 October 2021, Online**  
**(17<sup>th</sup> SC meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October)**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**<Introduction>**

During the last CARD General Meeting in 2018, CARD stakeholders confirmed that the progress made during Phase 1 (2008-2018) created a significant impact on the total paddy production in Sub-Saharan Africa. In effect this contributed to attaining the overall goal of CARD of doubling rice production from 14 million MT in 2008 to 28 million MT in 2018. It was noted that production performance in member countries varied, and that rice consumption in Africa is increasing at a faster pace than that of local production; as such the demand-supply gap has continued to widen. The Meeting reinforced the need for increased investments and stronger policy measures to close this gap to make Africa self-sufficient in rice. It recommended that CARD, together with other partners, shall continue pursuing its support to governments of its member countries through a second phase (2019-2030).

Subsequently, the CARD initiative entered its 2nd phase in January 2019 and at the launching ceremony in July 2019, the renewed target of further doubling rice production on the continent was announced. Current FAO data suggests that paddy production in Sub-Saharan Africa stood at 32 million tons in 2018, thus surpassing the target of 28 million tons set by CARD. During the first two and half years of the current phase, great efforts have been made by the current 32 Sub-Saharan African member countries, especially on the formulation and revision of their National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) as well as Regional Rice Development Strategy (RRDS).

Under the second phase, CARD adopts a new approach called "RICE", which is composed of the following four pillars: Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness and Empowerment. CARD maintains value chain development, capacity building and partnership with the private sector, as cross-cutting elements of the National Rice Development Strategy in its member countries.

The best mix of solutions, approaches and implementation mechanisms vary from one country to another. Moreover, concrete and appropriate actions and policies need to be established in each country to best fit their specific contexts. Countries sharing similar contexts can also learn from each other. CARD shall, therefore, continue performing its function as a platform to enhance exchange, networking, and partnership development among rice stakeholders in Africa at both the national and regional levels.

It is of critical importance to periodically review the progress being made and examine how CARD activities are planned and conducted so that they could, in the coming years, be adjusted based on lessons learned from experiences of previous years. In addition, the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), which is spearheaded by Dr. Agnes Kalibata, AGRA President and UN Special Envoy, who also serves as Director of CARD Secretariat, is scheduled in September 2021. As discussions progress on a wider context of Africa's food systems, the CARD initiative needs to be

mindful about its contribution to the establishment of sustainable rice-based food systems in Africa while pursuing its target of doubling rice production, in an inclusive manner.

It is against this backdrop that the 8<sup>th</sup> CARD General Meeting (GM8) was first planned to be held in June 2020. It was, however, postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a CARD Webinar was organized instead, in February 2021. The situation of the pandemic is still creating uncertainties in the organization of meetings but in order not to lose the momentum, it is proposed that the GM8 be organized in October 2021. The objective will be to review progress of CARD activities with specific attention on CARD's M&E framework. Discussions will also be engaged on how CARD and other stakeholders can contribute to addressing issues related to the rice-based food systems in Africa, with reference to the RICE approach. The GM8 will be held in a hybrid mode of both physical presence and online participation.

Expected outputs of the meeting are as follows:

- i) Knowledge of stakeholders on progress of CARD activities at the continental level since the onset of phase 2 improved
- ii) Stakeholders' understanding of the preparation and implementation of regional and national rice development strategies strengthened
- iii) Consensus among stakeholders on a CARD M&E framework at the continental and country levels, based on the new R.I.C.E approach established, and
- iv) Knowledge of stakeholders on the "Industrialization pillar" of R.I.C.E. under CARD for addressing the continent's food security issue, improved

A review of the progress of CARD activities at the continental level since the onset of phase 2, will form the bases for discussions by all CARD stakeholders who will attend the meeting. This will involve the following specific actions:

- Review the progress of the CARD activities at national and regional levels since the last GM, in terms of:
  - Formulation and revision of NRDS2 (Agenda 1)
  - Implementation of NRDS (Agenda 1)
  - Support to rice sector development at regional level (Agenda 2)
  - Activities and achievements by SC members (Agenda 3)
- Discuss the following issues:
  - M&E framework under the RICE approach (Agenda 4)
  - Way forward of the CARD initiative related to Industrialization of rice sector (Agenda 5)

#### <Supplementary information >

- Co-Chairs will be **ECOWAS, Tanzania, and IsDB.**
- The program is shown below

## Program for CARD 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

### General Meeting Day 1

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> (Wed), 2021

		Wed	<b>GM8 Day 1</b> Progress of CARD Activities at country and regional levels	
<b>East Africa Time</b>			<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>10:55</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Announcement about Co-Chairs</b>	CARD Secretariat
<b>11:00</b>	<b>11:10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> - Welcome remarks	CARD Director
<b>11:10</b>	<b>11:15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Approval of the Agendas</b>	Co-chair (ECOWAS)
<b>11:15</b>	<b>12:55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Agenda 1: Progress on NRDS Revision</b> 1.1 Overall Progress	CARD Secretariat
		<b>30</b>	1.2 Country presentations (2) (15 min each) Rwanda, Niger	Country Delegates
		<b>60</b>	1.3 Brief from New member countries (8 countries)	Country Delegates
<b>12:55</b>	<b>13:05</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Breck</b>	
<b>13:05</b>	<b>13:55</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Agenda 1: Progress on NRDS Implementation</b> 1.4 Country presentations (3) (15 min each) Madagascar, Ghana, Burkina Faso	Country Delegates (ECOWAS)
		<b>15</b>	1.5 Q&A/Discussion	
<b>13:55</b>	<b>15:15</b>		<b>Agenda 2: Support for Rice Development at Regional Level</b> 2.1 Regional Rice Strategy in West Africa/East Africa	
		<b>10</b>	2.1.1 ECOWAS's plan on Rice Offensive/Rice Observatory	ECOWAS Commission
		<b>10</b>	2.1.2 EAC's plan on East Africa Rice Dev. Strategy	EAC Secretariat
		<b>45</b>	2.2 Panel discussion on Regional Program Implementation Panelists: Country rep., Private sector, AGRA, ECOWAS, EAC	Modelator: IRRI
		<b>15</b>	2.3 Q&A/Discussion	Co-chair (Country)
<b>15:15</b>			<b>Closure of 1st day</b>	

## General Meeting Day 2

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> (Thu), 2021

		<b>GM8 Day 2</b>	
		Motnrioring and Evaluation Framework under R.I.C.E approach Way Forward Towards Doubling Rice Production	
Time		Topic	Presenter
11:00	11:40	<b>Agenda 3: CARD SSC/SC Contribution</b>	
	30	3.1 SC members' contribution (3) (10 min each)	AfricaRice, AfDB, IsDB
	10	3.2 Q&A/ Discussion	Co-chair (Country)
11:40	12:25	<b>Agenda 4: M&amp;E Framework</b>	
	15	4.1 R.I.C.E. M&E and means of data collection	CARD Secretariat
	30	4.2 Country Presentations (2) (15 min each) Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire	Country delegates
12:25	12:45	<b>Agenda 4: M&amp;E under R.I.C.E aproach - Continued</b>	
	20	4.3 Q&A/ Discussion	Co-chair (Country)
12:45	12:55	<b>Break</b>	
12:55	14:05	<b>Agenda 5: Towards Doubling Rice Production</b>	
	5	5.1 Introduction - Rwanda's experience on Milling sector upgrading	Co-chair (IsDB)
	50	5.2 Panel discussion on necessary measures for Industrialization Panelists: PS/MINAGRI (Rwanda), NIRSAL (Nigeria), FAO, IFAD, WB	Moderator: IsDB
	15	5.3 Q&A/ Discussion	Co-chair (IsDB)
14:05	14:20	<b>Agenda 6: Membership of CARD</b>	
	5	6.1 Membership	CARD Secretariat
	10	6.2 Brief from new SC member	AATF
14:20	14:35	<b>Agenda 7: Remarks by the members</b>	
	15	7.1 Remarks by members	Country/SSC/SC
14:35	14:50	<b>Co-Chairs Summary</b>	Co-chairs (IsDB)
14:50	15:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Minister Madagascar

17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting, Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October (2 hours)

(this is only for the Steering Committee members)

Time (EAT)	Tue	Topic	Presenter
12:00-12:05	5	Opening remarks	Co-chair (IsDB/ECOWAS)
12:05-13:35	90	Key points to be covered at GM8 i) Continuous supports to the CARD member countries in NRDS implementation ii) Continuous support to relevant stakeholders for regional strategy development/implementation led by RECs iii) Target and baseline for CARD Phase 2 M&E iv) Frequency of review in each country using M&E frame v) Discussion on issues highlighted at UN FSS	SC members
13:35-13:55	20	Schedule of future CARD meetings	CARD Secretariat
13:55-14:00	5	Closing remarks	Vice President, JICA

End