

**Eighteenth Steering Committee Meeting (SC18) of
Coalition for African Rice Development
29-30 September 2022
at Dar es Salaam**

CONCEPT NOTE

We launched the second phase of CARD at TICAD7 in 2019. This year we just had another CARD side event along the sideline of TICAD8. The side event was attended by H.E. President of Madagascar, President of African Development Bank, President of AGRA, President of JICA, Assistant Director General of FAO, among others. Over 350 people joined the event. The speakers discussed the impacts of current global affairs on rice markets in Africa and measures that could help African countries mitigate the adversaries. Improving the quality of locally produced rice was emphasized as one of the important measures for protecting the continent from any potential rice price crisis in international market.

Since the 8th General Meeting (GM8) last year, there has been a steady progress in formulation of 2nd National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS II) in CARD member countries and Regional Rice Development Strategy (RRDS) in ECOWAS and EAC. These efforts could help improve CARD member countries effectively utilize existing opportunities and minimize risks faced by the rice sector. At the GM8, we endorsed a new M&E framework for CARD, based on R.I.C.E approach that accounts for resilience (R), industrialization (I), competitiveness (C), and empowerment (E). This M&E framework allows tracking of the progress in rice sector development at national, regional, and continental levels. Another highlight of the GM8 was that AATF officially became a new member of the CARD Steering Committee.

FAO statistics reveal that average global rice price index has increased in July 2022 by 7.2% over its value in 2021. Total paddy production in Sub Saharan Africa stood at 33 mn MT in 2020, a 2.5 % increment over 2019. To achieve the CARD's target of 56 mn MT by 2030 however, the growth in production needs a much faster pace than the current level. Given global headwinds such as rising input costs and supply chain snags, additional acceleration measures need to be discussed more intensively by CARD SC members at SC18.

CARD made big strides in terms of number of member countries which completed their NRDS formulation process in 2021/22. Based on the decision over the M&E framework at GM8, CARD Secretariat has started working with those member countries that had already prepared their NRDS2 on conducting surveys for setting baseline figures for the CARD's 12 common indicators. So far, 10 countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Mozambique) have completed or started or are about to start the baseline survey.

Since the start of the CARD phase 2, we have been working closely with RECs on devising RRDS. ECOWAS has already prepared its action plan under ECOWAS regional rice strategy (Rice Offensive). EAC is in the final stages of validating EAC Rice Development Strategy (ERDS). Our support at the regional level is based on the principles of mutualism and complementarity to NRDS implementation in the respective Partner States. In this regard, SC members need to discuss on how to lead the implementation processes and extend the strategy formulation processes by the remaining RECs, viz., COMESA, ECCAS and SADC.

In order to continuously provide more effective support to the M&E process in member countries on implementation of both the national and regional strategies, CARD Secretariat is now establishing a new interface for CARD's M&E tools through our website for: - 1) tracking overall indicators (production, area harvested, yield, self-sufficiency) and RICE indicators, 2) showing locations and details of rice related projects in each member country and by each supporting partner, and 3) presenting geographical areas of interventions (heat map) in each country. With this information, stakeholders including the SC members can effectively reckon specific support required for rice sector development in each country.

Going forward, we need to expedite our support to the remaining CARD member countries on formulation and/or finalization of NRDS2, and setting M&E baselines. To complement our efforts on M&E, we are planning to support all CARD member countries in organizing 'Annual Rice Sector Review'. In this context, support from the SC members' local offices is keenly sought and welcomed. How best we can support organizing such a review meeting will hence be one of the agendas for discussion at the SC meeting.

Expected Outputs and Program

The 18th CARD Steering Committee meeting (SC18) will be held during 29-30 September, 2022 in Dar es Salaam. Objectives of the SC18 are to (i) share and discuss the progress made in the last one year, and (ii) review and endorse the planned activities for 2022/23, with special attention on CARD's M&E framework.

The expected outputs of the meeting are as follows:

- Information shared over progress made on: -
 - 1) NRDS formulation and implementation,
 - 2) Regional rice strategy formulation and implementation,
 - 3) Activities of SC members on rice sector development in CARD member countries
- M&E system on rice sector development at both national and continental levels explained and understood
- Highlights from CARD side event at TICAD8 reported
- Annual plan for 2022/23 discussed and agreed

More details on the venue will be communicated as soon as it is decided. The meeting will be co-chaired by EAC Secretariat and AATF, as per our usual practice of rotation. The tentative program is shown below.

Day 1 (29th September)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>In charge</i>
0900-0915	Self-introduction	SC members
0915-0925	Co-chair's remarks	Co-chairs
0925-1005	Stocktaking of activities under the CARD phase 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRDS formulation and implementation • NRDS M&E baseline setting in member countries 	CARD Secretariat
1005-1115	Update from SC members on their support activities on rice sector development in CARD member countries (10 min per SC member)	SC members
1115-1145	Health break	
1145-1300	Update from SC members (Contd.) (10 min per member)	SC members

1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1450	Update from SC members (Contd.) (10 min per organization)	SC members
1450-1500	Regional strategy formulation and implementation	CARD Secretariat
1500-1530	Sharing an example of support to ECOWAS strategy (Rice Offensive) and its M&E framework	ECOWAS
1530-1600	Experiences from formulation and validation of EAC Rice Development strategy (ERDS)	EAC
1600-1630	Way forward for supporting implementation of ECOWAS Rice Offensive Action Plan and EAC strategy (ERDS)	SC members
1630-1645	Planning for RRDS formulation by other RECs	SC members

Day 2 (30th September)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>In charge</i>
0900-0910	Report from TICAD8 CARD side event	JICA
0910-1010	CARD M&E: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting indicator figures by NRDS Focal Point in each country for regularly updating the dashboard on CARD website Rice Annual/Biennial Review in each CARD member country 	CARD Secretariat
1010-1110	Discussions on support to CARD M&E activities	SC members
1100-1130	Private sector engagement	TBD
1130-1200	Health break	
1200-1220	Private sector engagement (Contd.)	TBD
1220-1250	Discussion over Way forward for CARD	CARD Secretariat
	Annual plan of 2022/2023 and Next GM and SC meetings	SC members
1250-1320	AOB	SC members
1320-1330	Closing Remarks	JICA
1330-	Lunch	

For “Update from SC members’ support in in CARD member countries”, ten (10) minutes are allocated for each organization. In this regard, I would like to request each organization to prepare a very short brief presentation with at most 8 PPT slides, about your support activities on rice sector development in sub-Saharan African, especially in CARD member countries in the year 2021/22, as well as any planned future activities. The slides shall be sent to the CARD Secretariat, via yhaneishi@agra.org and tnagai@agra.org, **by COB 25th September**. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

As per the Operational Guideline of CARD, SC members are responsible for their own travel to and accommodation in Dar es Salaam. Reservations for accommodation and airport transfers can be made through CARD Secretariat, if SC members wish.

As earlier communicated, SC members are invited to attend the Day 3 session of EAC Rice Development Strategy (ERDS) validation workshop organized by EAC Secretariat, which is on 28th September. Rice Policy Exchange event by FAO that was planned on the same day has been postponed to October. Information about the FAO event will be further communicated.

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