

Co-Chairs' Summary of the Fourth General Meeting of CARD

Dakar, Senegal, 5–6 February 2013

The Fifth General Meeting of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) was convened in Dakar, Senegal on 5-6 February 2013. Participants attended from 21 partner organizations/institutions, six non-sub-Saharan African countries as South-South Cooperation partners, five private corporations, and 23 CARD countries.

It was confirmed that Africa has made notable achievements in productivity improvement, increased investments and expansion of the area planted, all of which contributed to a significant increase in rice production since 2008. Growth is progressing towards doubling African rice production. However, despite this progress, there remain a number of technical and policy challenges that need to be addressed.

The meeting acknowledged the significant progress of the CARD initiative made since the establishment of the Coalition in 2008. Progress includes the development of National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS), parts of which are already being implemented in some countries, successful alignment to overarching initiatives such as CAADP, capacity development in various rice-related technical areas, and partnerships with private sector players for creating enabling environment for rice business, as well as establishing arrangements for South-South Cooperation, while moving forward.

After taking stock of CARD's achievements and reviewing remaining challenges, the meeting formed a general consensus regarding the direction and way forward for the second half (2013-2018) of the CARD initiative. In summary, the Coalition will; i) Further accelerate the implementation of NRDS; ii) Continue promoting enabling environments for the private sector and for public-private partnerships through pilots in mechanization and other areas; iii) Continue capacity development in relevant technical areas along the rice value-chain through South-South Cooperation and others; iv) strengthen alignment and harmonization with relevant other initiatives, particularly with the G8 New Alliance; and v) advocate for increasing investments in the development of the rice sector.

The meeting consented that the above-mentioned progress and plans for the coming five years of the Coalition will be shared in a side event of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) to be held in Yokohama in June 2013.

Based on the presentations and discussions on the following topics, the Meeting came up with several recommendations for the next five years.

1. Progress in the development and implementation of the National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS)

The CARD secretariat presented the overall progress of NRDS implementation and trends in rice production, productivity and land planted in some CARD countries. This was followed by delegates from Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Zambia presenting the progress made so far in the development and implementation of NRDS in their respective countries. Some commonalities were observed in the challenges and way forward presented by the five CARD countries. That includes the needs of improving the quality of concept notes, promoting NRDS and concept notes through advocacy, and fund mobilization for the implementation of NRDS. NRDS implementation has been partially started in all five countries through self-support and under the initiative by the governments complimented by support from some development partners. The meeting confirmed the importance of the private sector and of rice as an entry point for promotion of more active participation by the private sector.

Recommendation; *Given the progress made in NRDS development and implementation in the CARD member countries, the CARD secretariat should organize an event where the progress and the future perspective of CARD will be shared with wider stakeholders at the occasion of TICAD V.*

Recommendation; *Good practices in the CARD member countries should be shared and disseminated through the CARD secretariat.*

Recommendation; *SC members should examine concept notes prepared by CARD member countries.*

2. Status of Promotion of Mechanization

An introductory presentation was made by the CARD secretariat on the pilot to create enabling environments for promoting agricultural mechanization. The presentation covered the explanation on procedures of the pilot, overall progress, analysis and recommendations, and was followed by presentations from five pilot countries, namely Cameroon, Madagascar, Rwanda Senegal and Uganda. Each country presented the challenges and progress made in the mechanization process on both policy and technical tracks, together with the identified policy tools and the way forward. The meeting acknowledged the importance of recommendations made by the CARD secretariat; i) coherent and

friendly policy for promoting private sector, ii) promotion of technically appropriate machinery and its use, and; iii) Capacity development for proper use and maintenance of machineries. Detailed strategies should, however, be articulated in a country specific way.

Recommendation; *Mechanization experience in pilot countries should be analyzed and shared with non-pilot CARD member countries (CARD Secretariat).*

3. The Coalition's efforts to advance South-South Cooperation

The CARD secretariat presented achievements made through South-South Cooperation (SSC). Since its launching, the Coalition has helped with stocktaking of institutional and human resources from SSC partner countries and organizing video conference seminars in various technical areas such as seed multiplication and distribution, quality improvement, and water users association, in collaboration with the SSC partner countries. It was followed by presentations from IFAD, FARA and AfricaRice on the briefing and update of IFAD grant for SSC platform which includes capacity development components such as a study tour on mechanization to SSC countries. It was reported that the agreement between IFAD and Africa Rice was signed, and the activities under the grant are expected to start from April. The beneficiary countries will be decided in the launching workshop. There was an exchange of views on the rationale of a study tour to Brazil.

Recommendation; *Co-chairs suggested that AfricaRice, FARA, and IRRI will examine the needs of CARD countries, and decide the destination of the study tour after the launching workshop.*

Recommendation; *The CARD secretariat suggested that the IFAD grant to the CARD secretariat through AGRA signed in January 2013 should be used to follow up some components of South-South corporation as well as NRDS implementation and pilots in mechanization . NRDS Task Force should take an initiative for receiving the support, and details of supports will be planned in consultation with the CARD Secretariat.*

4. Summary of SC member activities,

The CARD secretariat presented the summary and overview of interventions made by CARD steering committee members in relevant areas to the CARD initiative as well as some interventions where

synergetic effects are observed. The discussion by the meeting went beyond contributions of SC members to CARD-relevant activities. Comments were made on how to evaluate the progress of CARD against its overall goal, performance of Africa in general in terms of rice production, productivities, and cultivated areas, and analyses of success cases and scaling-up. The meeting agreed to continue discussions in Session Seven on the future direction of the CARD initiative in the coming five years.

5. The roles of the government in promoting private sectors

A series of presentations were made on topics relevant to the promotion of private sector partnerships. NEPAD gave an overview of the Grow Africa Initiative which is a platform to increase private sector investment for sustainable development of African agriculture. This was followed by presentations from Ghana and Tanzania. FAGE and SAGCOT shared with the participants their efforts for public-private partnerships being made in Ghana and Tanzania respectively. The presentations indicated the expected roles to be played by the government and the mechanisms to realize the communication between sectors and placement of favorable policies. The CARD secretariat suggested the roles that can potentially be played by the Coalition, and participants' views were exchanged after a few questions and clarifications.

The FARA provided additional information to the meeting to clarify the relationship between New Alliance and Grow Africa, and the meeting confirmed that all the initiatives should be tied to national initiatives. It is important for CARD to have complementary relationships with these initiatives.

The meeting recognized; the important roles played by private sector along rice value-chain, the importance of sharing experiences for mutual learning, and the role of CARD as a facilitator to provide such opportunity to CARD members.

Recommendation; *The meeting confirmed the necessity of communication between CARD and Grow Africa to seek complementarity. NEPAD will convey the message to the Grow Africa secretariat.*

Recommendation; *CARD secretariat should develop an inventory of rice-related components of these emerging initiatives to make sure that all initiatives will contribute to Africa in an effective and efficient manner.*

Recommendation; *The CARD secretariat will develop a work plan on how to support the CARD countries in developing PPP in collaboration with NRDS Task Forces and sharing experiences.*

6. Overview of the progress in the rice sector in Sub-Saharan Africa

Africa Rice reviewed the progress made and remaining challenges in the rice sector in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) since 2008, and presented its strategic plan for research and development. The main messages from the presentation included the notable growth rate in rice production and relevant investment, especially from 2008 to 2010. The presentation showed that rice production is progressing towards achieving the goal of CARD to double African rice production by 2018. The importance of continuous investment across the rice value-chain, and for appropriate trade policies was emphasized. The meeting also agreed that Africa should further accelerate the efforts considering the very rapidly increasing demand.

Recommendation: *Progress in the rice sector should be analyzed in a disaggregated manner, for the lessons learned and identification of success factors. The CARD secretariat will collect data from NRDS focal points and conduct an analysis of trends and lessons learned by CARD member countries.*

7. Summary of the First Half, TICAD V and Outlook for the Second Half of the CARD initiative

The progress of CARD in the first five years was summarized into four pillars and presented, together with outstanding challenges, by the CARD secretariat. Significant progress was made in capacity development, harmonization and coordination with other initiatives and development partners. Regarding NRDS, most CARD countries have already developed and launched NRDS and a few countries are finalizing the document. Some countries started its implementation through operationalization of NRDS concept notes in the form of projects, but resource mobilization is not sufficient. CARD has worked on networking with the private sector for increasing investment by creating enabling environments. A pilot attempt is on-going in the area of mechanization, while there is a lack of necessary policy implementation in most countries.

The CARD secretariat presented that the Coalition will; i) Further accelerate the implementation of NRDS; ii) Continue promoting the creation of enabling environments for private sector along the rice value-chain, particularly through pilots in the area of mechanization and other areas to follow; iii)

Continuous capacity development in relevant technical areas mainly through South-South Cooperation; iv) Continuous alignment and harmonization with relevant initiatives, particularly with emerging ones such as the G8 New Alliance. It was emphasized that the Coalition should make efforts to create success cases in the coming five years in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the CARD approach.

JICA provided information on the Fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD V), and the meeting confirmed how CARD should prepare for it, especially for the side event on the Coalition.

Some CARD member countries expressed their appreciations to the CARD Steering Committee and Secretariat for their support to develop and implement NRDS since the beginning of the initiative. The participants appreciated the self-assessment of the initiative of the last five years by the Secretariat and the presentation on Outlook for the next five years of the initiative.

In order further to elaborate the mid-term review of CARD initiative, assessment of best practices for NRDS implementation and for scaling-up, several methods are suggested, which include questionnaire to be filled by CARD member countries, other research by Africa Rice Centre and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), among others.

Alignment of CARD with CAADP in the past both regional and country levels was appreciated. There is a strong need to further continue to strengthen the alignment and to share the progress with high level institutions.

The participants recognized that the concept of capacity development needed to be expanded to include all the relevant stakeholders across rice value chain and that the provision of trainings was significant.

Recommendation: *Mid-term review of the CARD initiative to be presented at TICAD V. The overall assessment of the initiative towards 2018 and its monitoring tools should be further elaborated.*

Recommendation: *It was suggested that the CARD member countries should be represented as one of co-chairs at CARD general meetings. The CARD Secretariat will propose to the Steering Committee members the possible formation of the governance of the initiative in the second half.*

8. Other business

The 9th CARD Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled in the third quarter of 2014 with the possibility of shifting to one month before/after depending on the availability of the steering committee members and overlap with other relevant events. The 6th General Meeting will be held in late 2015. The Venues for these events have yet to be decided.

Appendix List of Participating Countries and Agencies

<Governments of Sub-Sahara African Countries>

Republic of Benin
Burkina Faso
Republic of Cameroon
Central African Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Republic of The Gambia
Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Kenya
Republic of Liberia
Republic of Madagascar
Republic of Mali
Republic of Mozambique
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Republic of Rwanda
Republic of Senegal
Republic of Sierra Leone
United Republic of Tanzania
Togolese Republic
Republic of Uganda
Republic of Zambia

<Governments of non-SSA Countries>

Arab Republic of Egypt
Republic of Indonesia
Malaysia
Republic of the Philippines
Kingdom of Thailand
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

<Private Sector Partners>

Agrica/ KPL

Federation of Association of Ghanaian Exporters (FAGE)

GADCO

RICE MILLER AND DEALER ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

SAGCOT

<Development Partners/ Institutions>

Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD)

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

Catholic Relief Service (CRS)

Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO)

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Federation of Cooperatives in Mindanao (FEDCO)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

Kilimo Trust

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA)

Sasakawa Africa Association

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

World Bank