



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

One People, One Destiny



PROMOTION OF SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS)

Twenty First Steering Committee Meeting (SC21) and the Tenth General Meeting of CARD (GM10)

Antananarivo, Madagascar

09 - 12 March 2026

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Principal Agricultural Economist

EAC Secretariat



OUTLINE

- i. About EAC: Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security
- ii. ERDS Journey: an overview
- iii. An Overview of Rice Sector Development in the last 5 years
- iv. ERDS: Key Components, Strategic Objectives
- v. Prioritized Interventions for Resource Mobilization 2026/2027
- vi. Acknowledgements

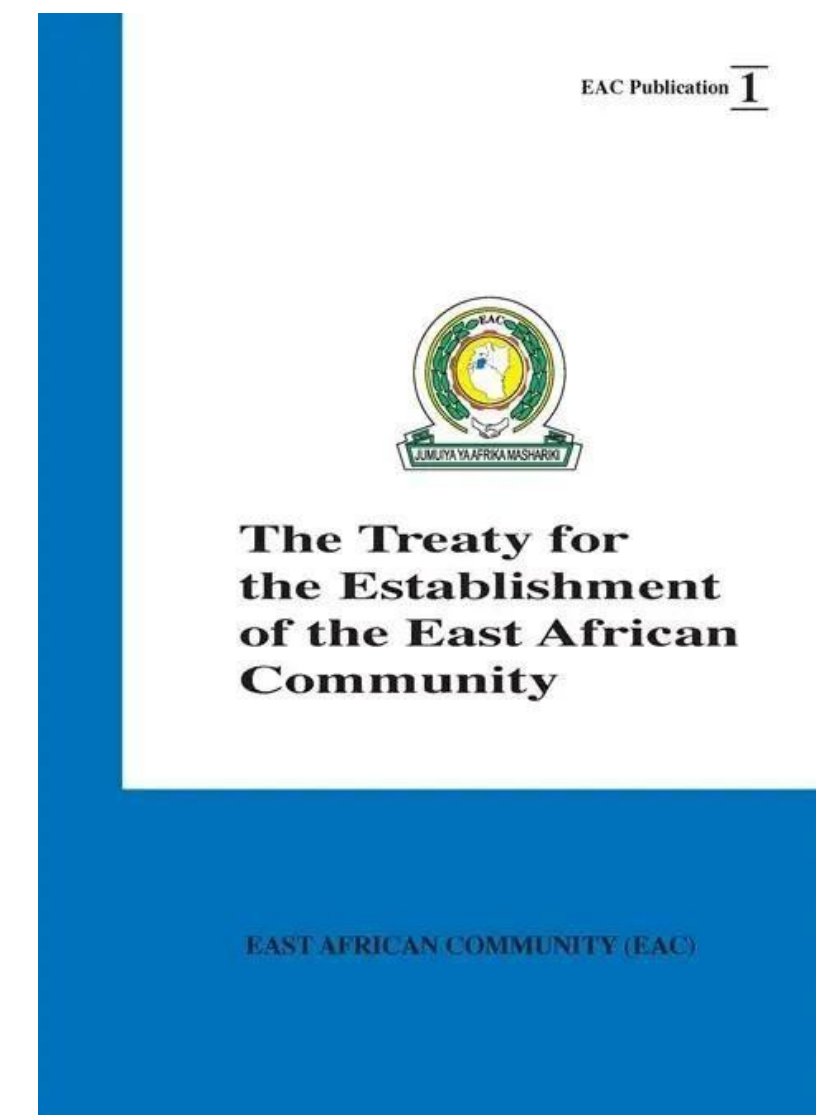


About EAC: Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security

- ❑ The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization established by the Treaty on 30th November 1999. Currently, eight (8) Partner States are members of the Community: (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda) – 1999, (Rwanda, Burundi) - 2007, RSS - 2016, DRC - 2022, and FRS – 2024. The mission of the Community is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the livelihood of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

- ❑ The overall objectives of co-operation in the agricultural sector as provided in the Chapter 18 of the Treaty are the achievement of food security and rational agricultural production within the Community.

- ❑ The Partner States undertake to co-operate in specific fields of agriculture, including:
 - a. harmonization of agricultural policies and strategies;
 - b. food sufficiency within the Community;
 - c. Seed Multiplication and Distribution
 - d. Plant and Animal Diseases Control
 - e. Irrigation and Water Catchment Management
 - f. agricultural training and research and extension services;
 - g. marketing of food and the co-ordination of the export and import of agricultural commodities;

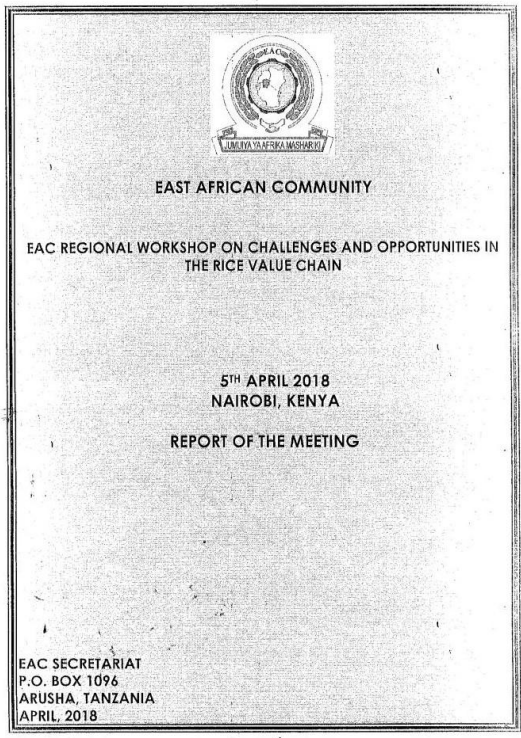


for more information about EAC visit,
<https://www.eac.int/>



ERDS Journey: an overview

01



1st regional engagement of rice matters held in Nairobi, Kenya April 2018

02

- ❑ Launching of ERP in Jan 2020
- ❑ 24 Members/ 3 per Partner States (Public + Private Sectors) + NRDS FP



05

Adoption and Approval of ERDS and IP by EAC Policy Organs:

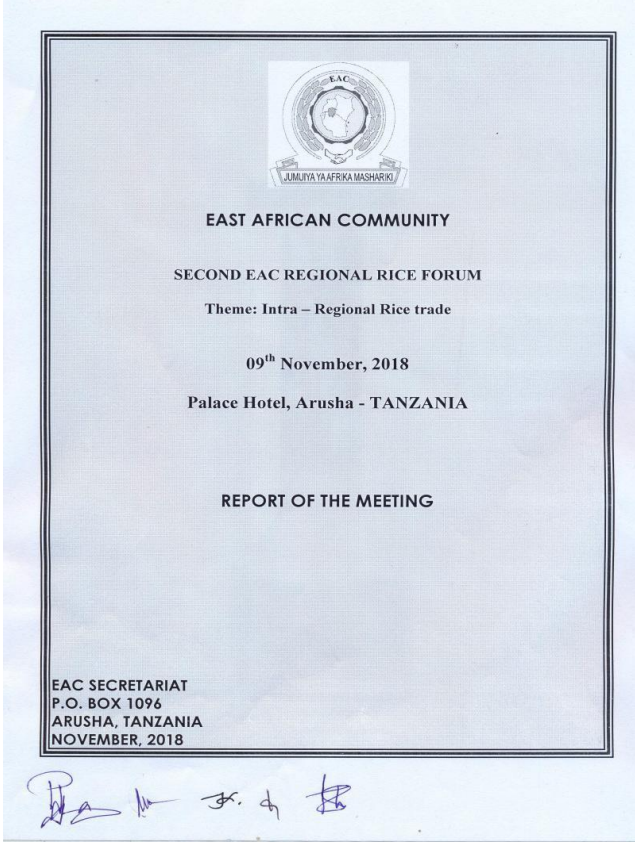
- ❑ 16th SCAFS, May 2023 (EAC/SCAFS/16/decision 9)
- ❑ 44th CoM, Nov 2023 (EAC/CM 44/Decision 12)

08

2nd M & E Workshop

- August 2025,
- Objectives were;
 - review of M&E indicators,
 - data collection and responsibilities,
 - current gaps in rice-related interventions,
 - planning for the ARSRM, and resource mobilization.

2nd regional engagement In Arusha, TZ, November 2018



1st M & E Workshop

06

- July 2024
- Key agendas include consensus on:
 - appropriate M&E indicators,
 - data collection methodologies and responsibilities,
 - gaps in rice-related interventions,
 - planning for regional ARSRM

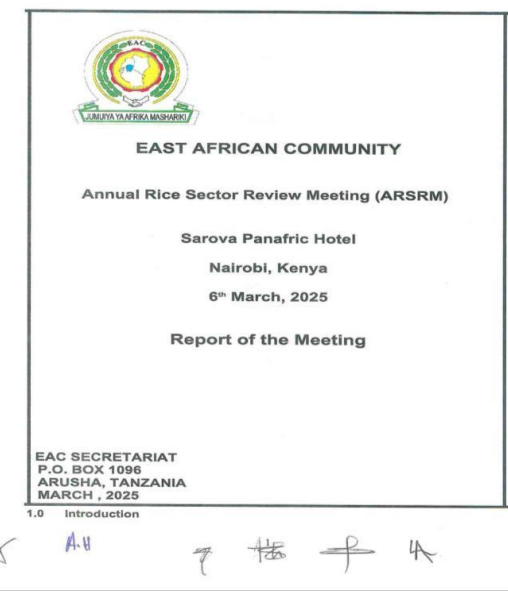
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Formulation and Validation of ERDS, Mar 2020 - Sep 2022



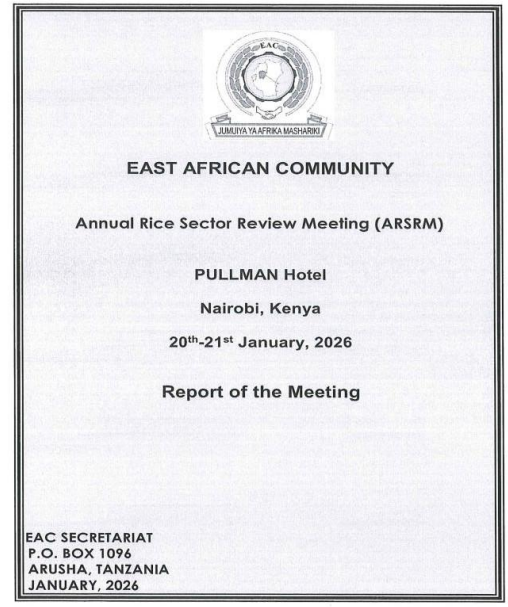
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1st ARSRM
▪ March 2025



2nd ARSRM
▪ January 2026

09



inadequate coordination of the rice sub-sector at the regional level was identified as one of the challenge that need EAC intervention

04

Formulation of Implementation Plan to support ERDS implementation, Feb 2023



An Overview of Rice Sector Development in the last 5 years

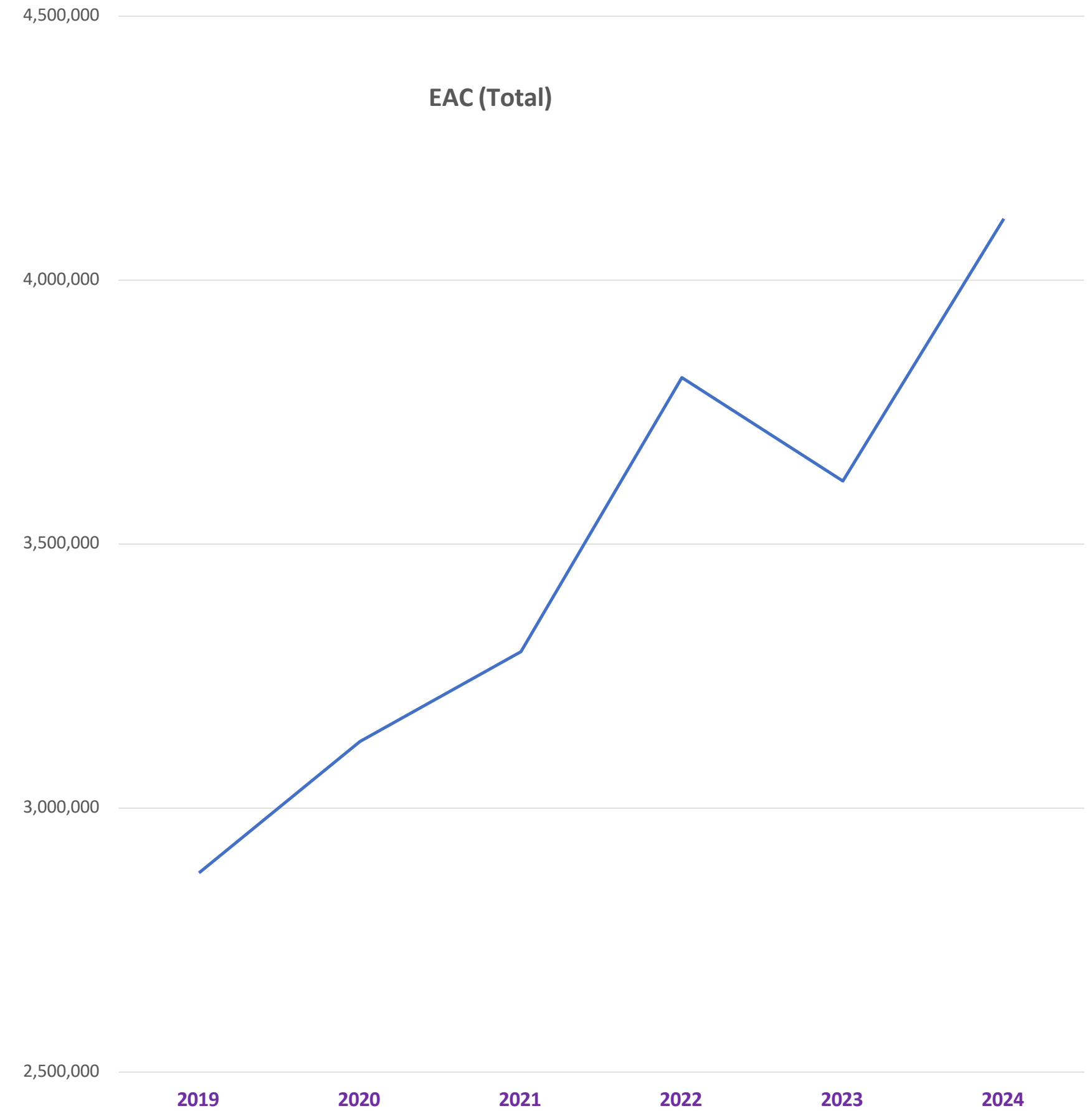
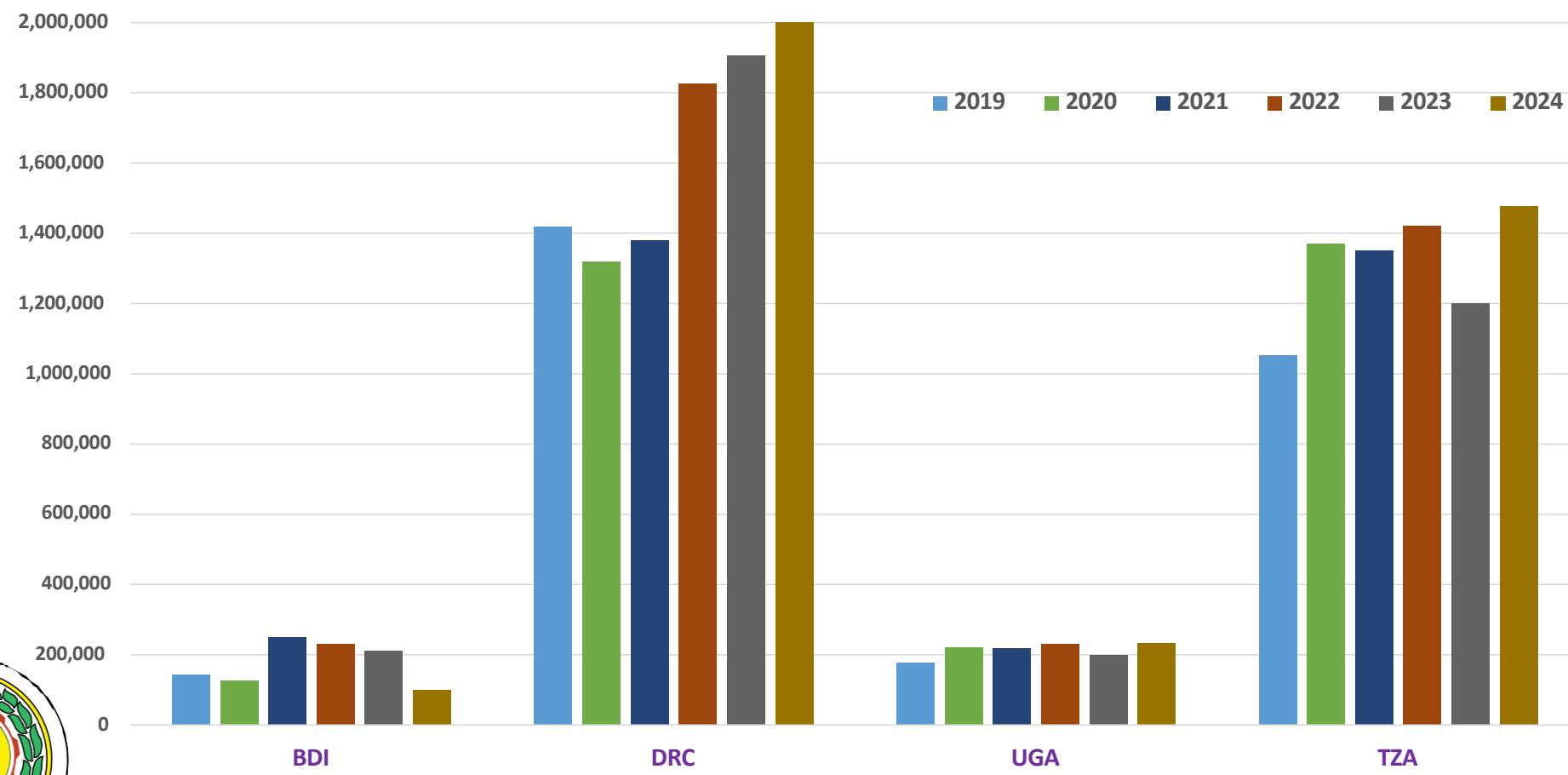
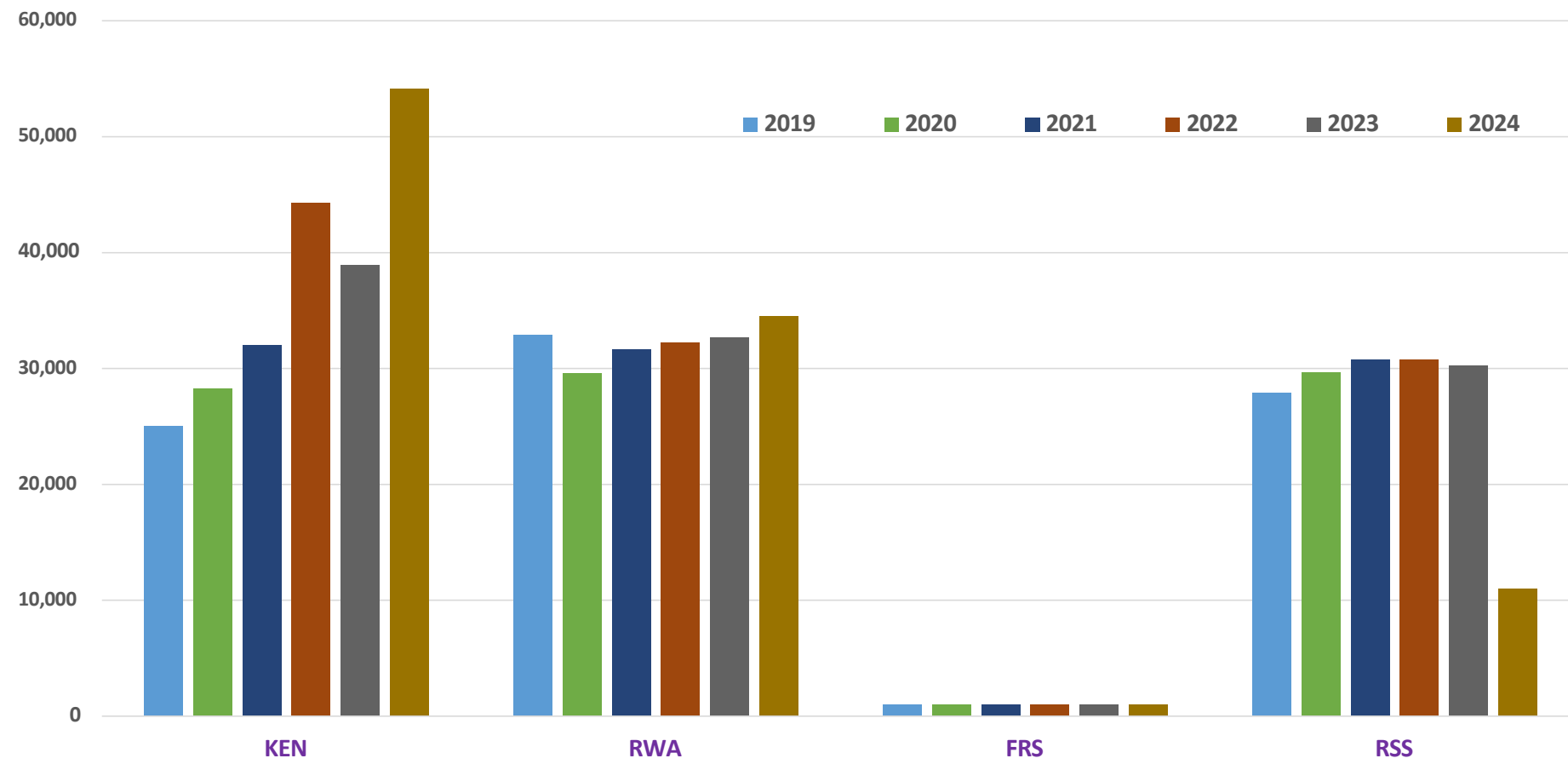
Major indices of rice sector development in the EAC region

- i. Rice Area Harvested (Ha)
- ii. Paddy Production (tons)
- iii. Average yield (t/Ha)
- iv. Trends in rice import volumes (tons)
- v. Self Sufficiency Rate (%)

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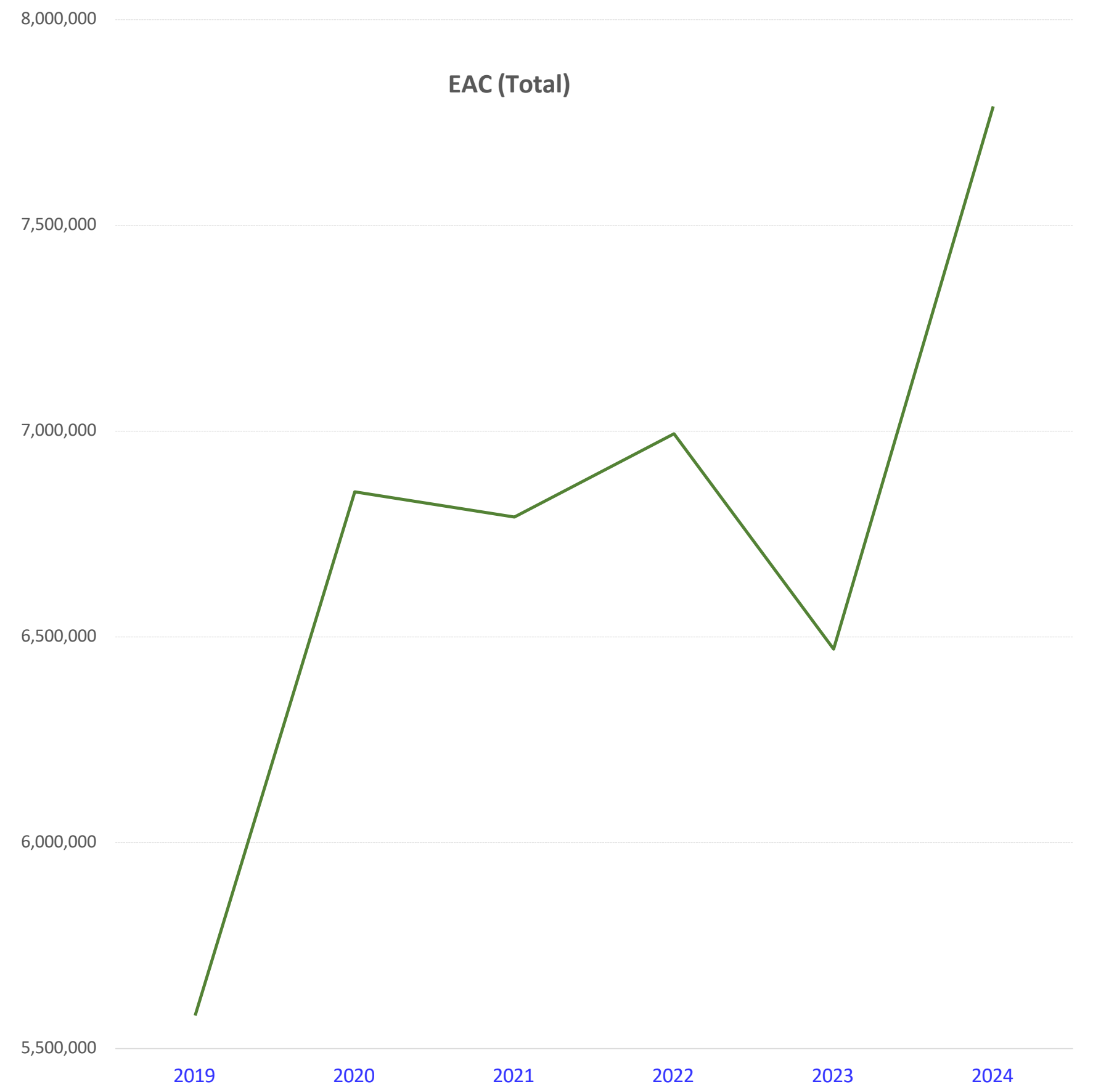
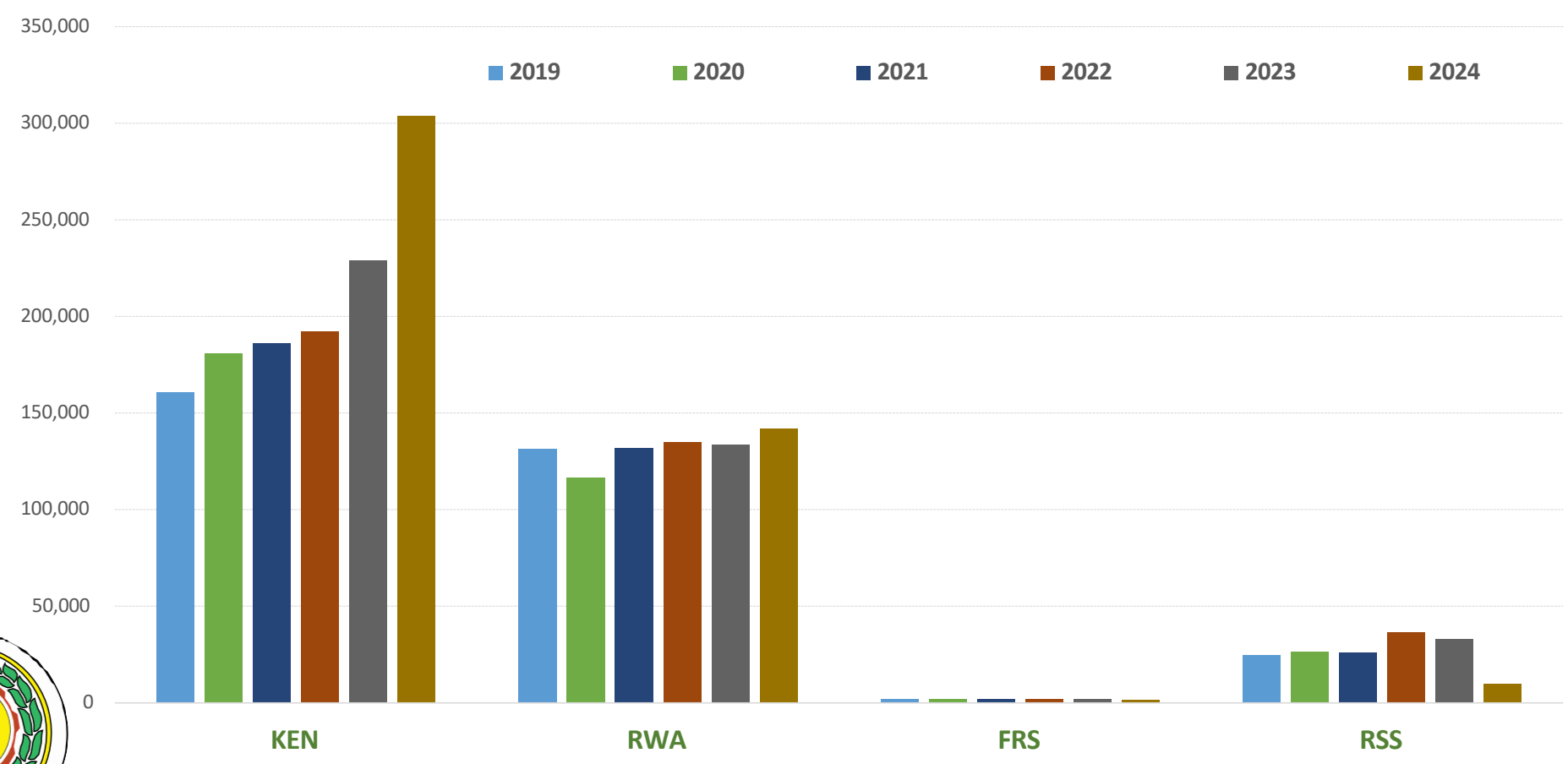
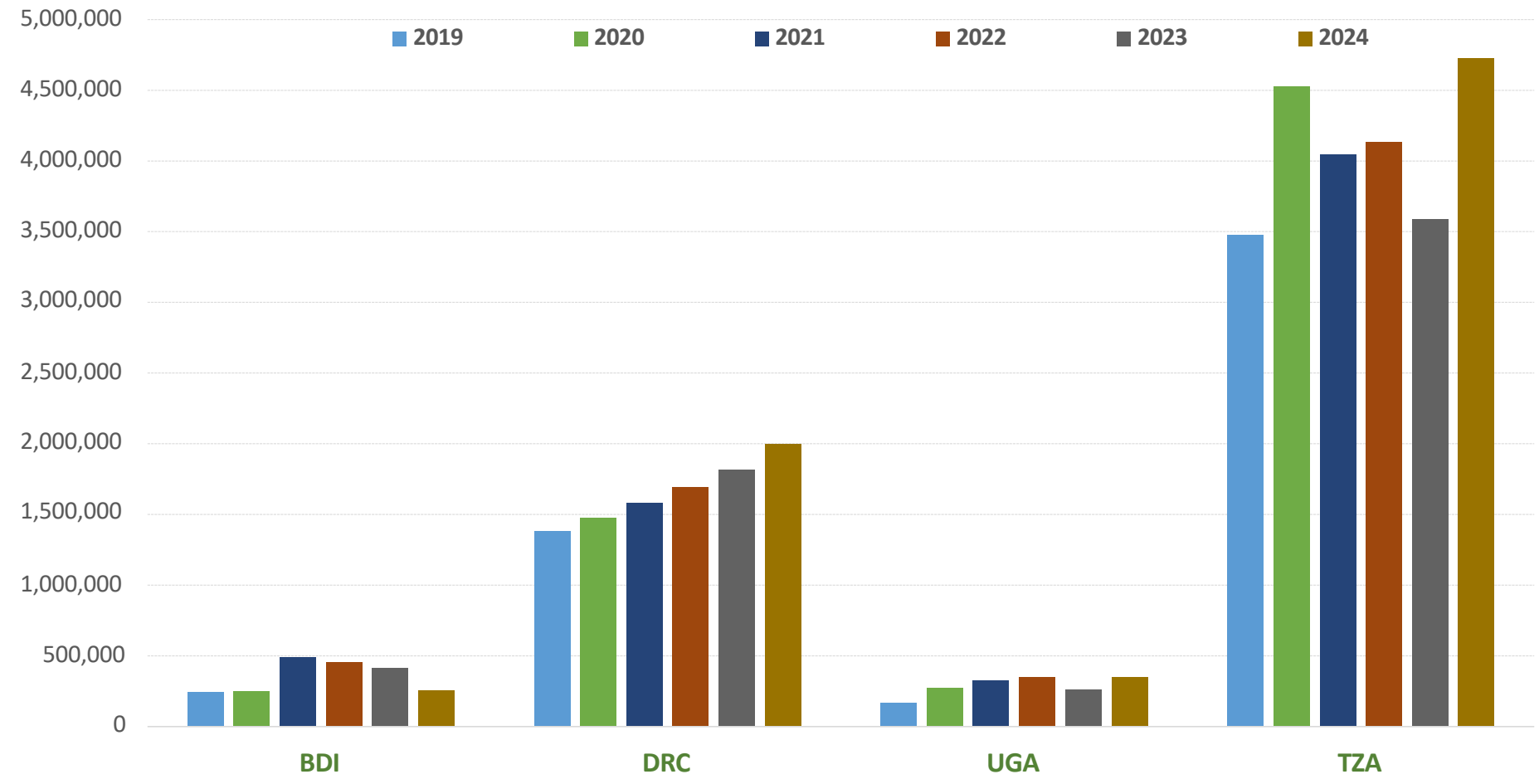
Rice Area Harvested (Ha)



Source: FAOSTAT



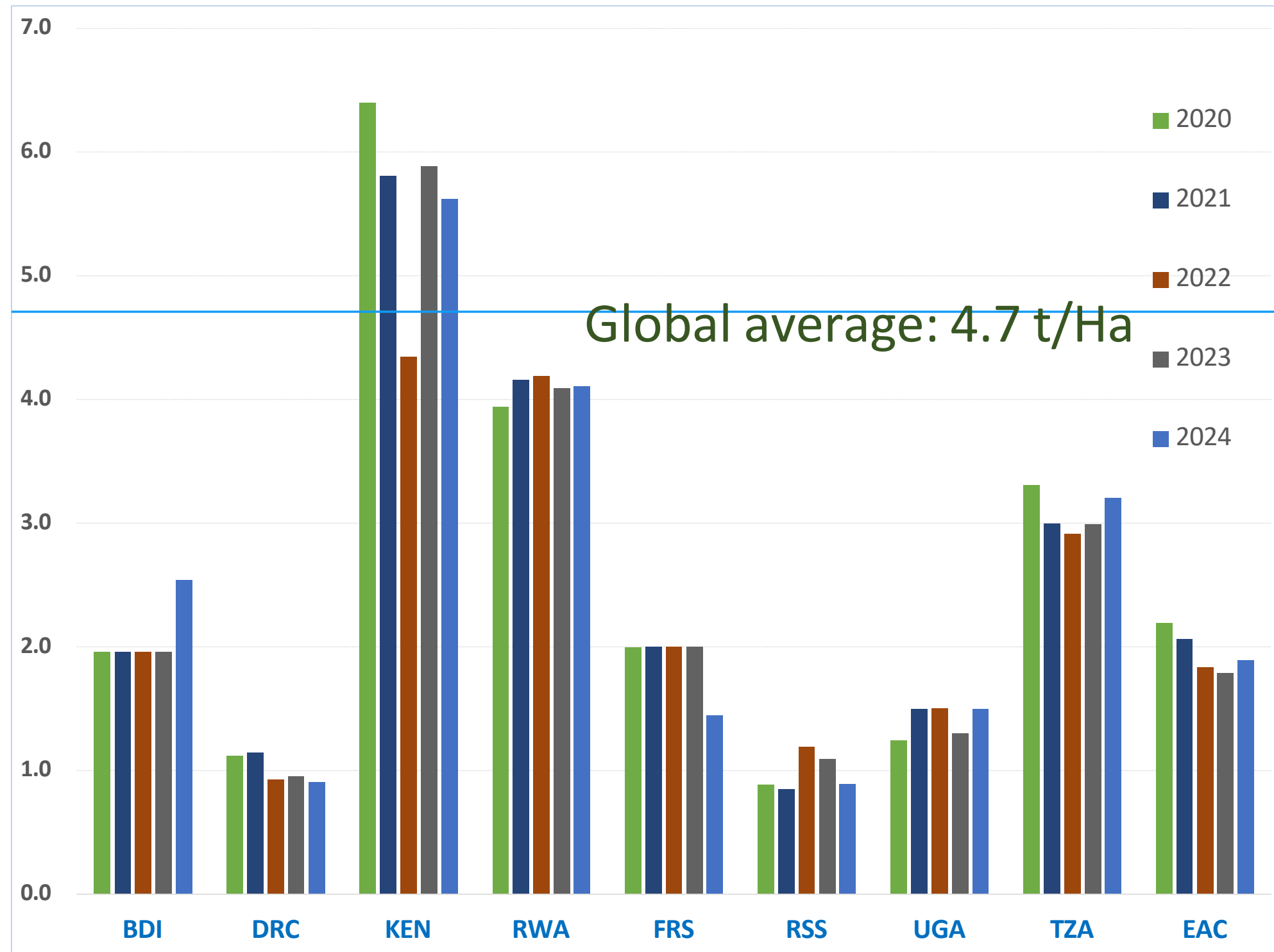
Paddy Production (tons)



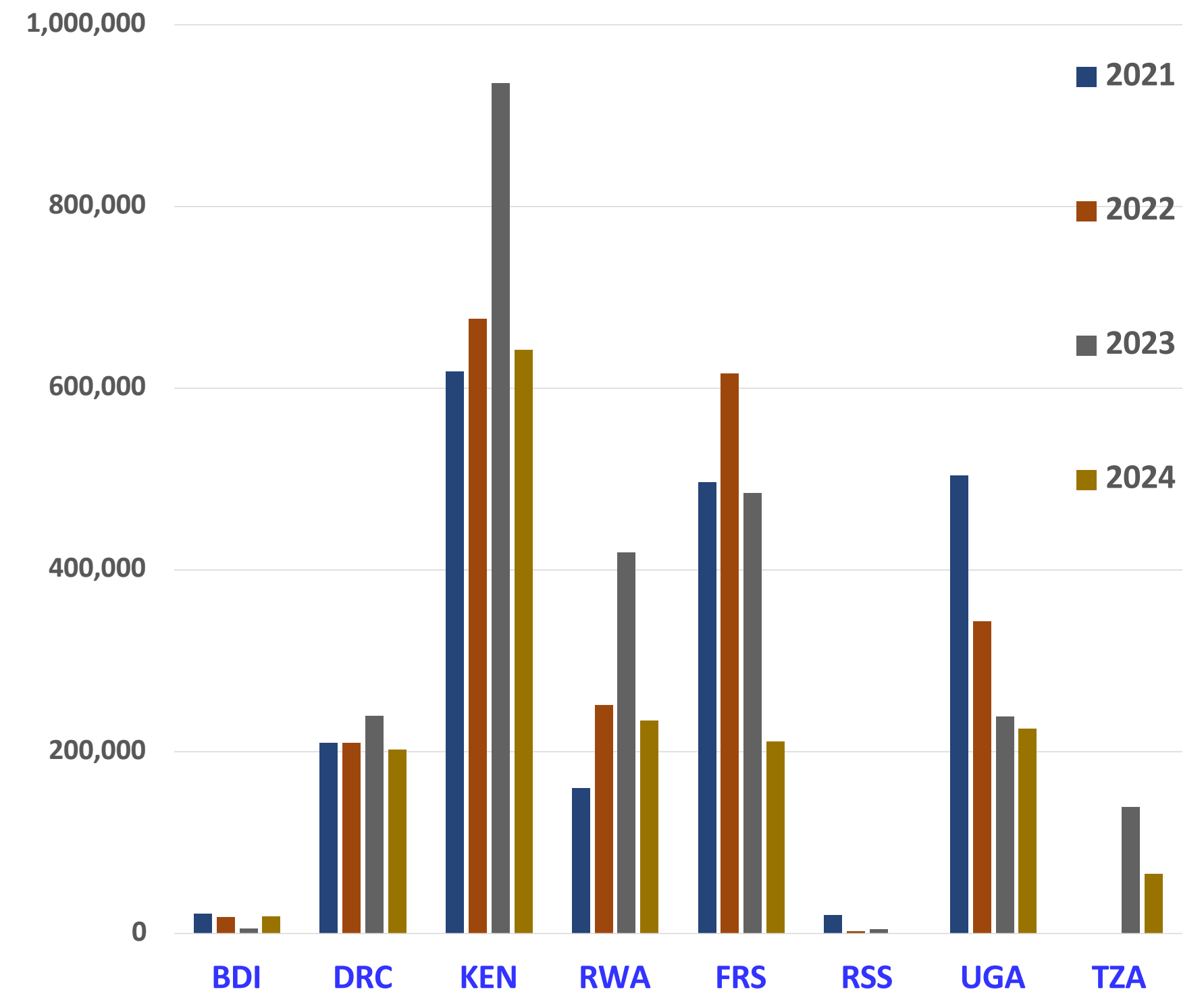
Source: FAOSTAT



Average yield (t/Ha)



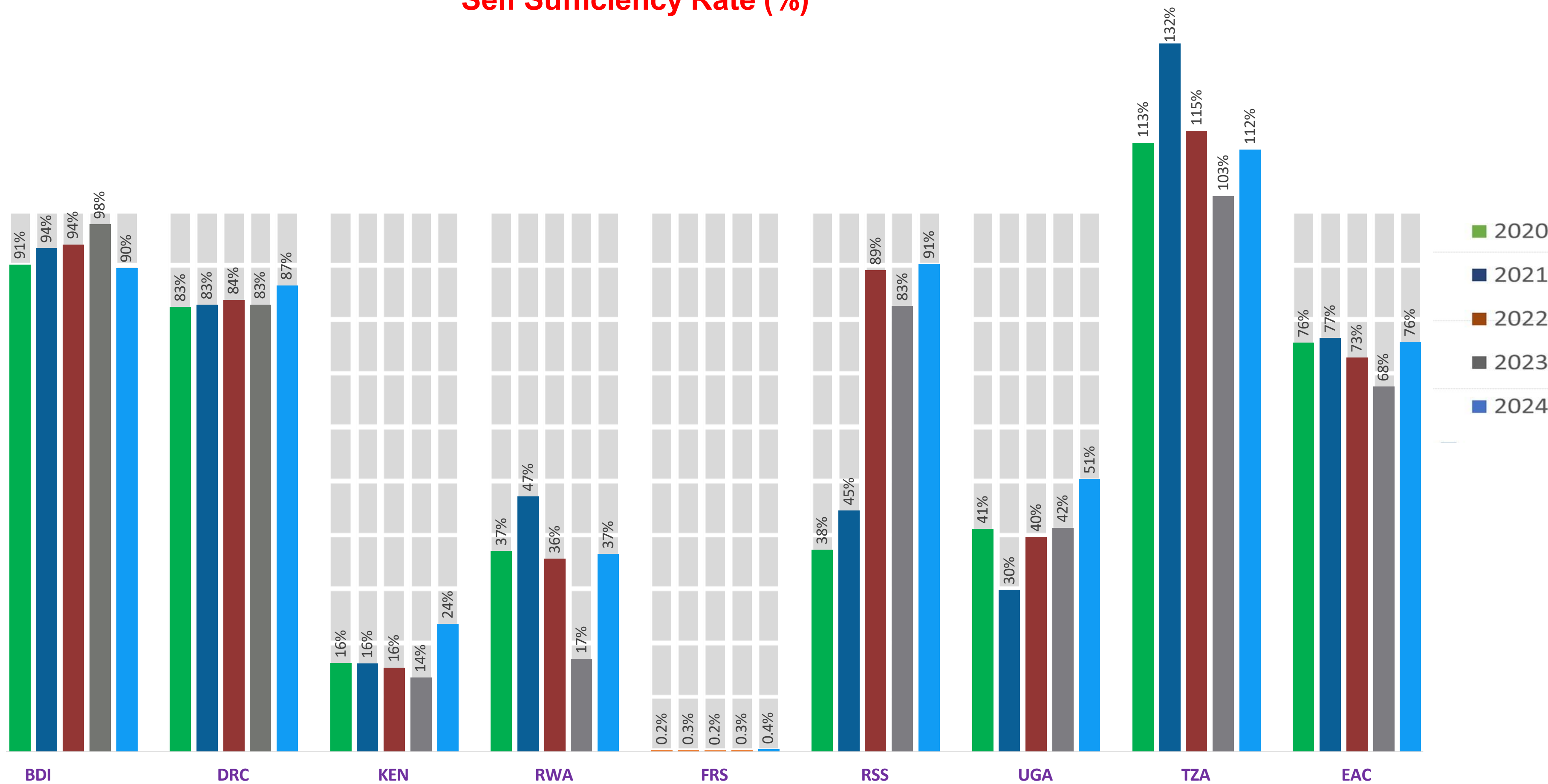
Trends in rice import volumes (tons)



Source: FAOSTAT



Self Sufficiency Rate (%)



Source: FAOSTAT



KEY COMPONENTS, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES/AREAS OF ERDS



❑ PURPOSE:

Facilitate rice value chain integration, free movement of rice and rice-related goods, services, technologies, and investments within EAC

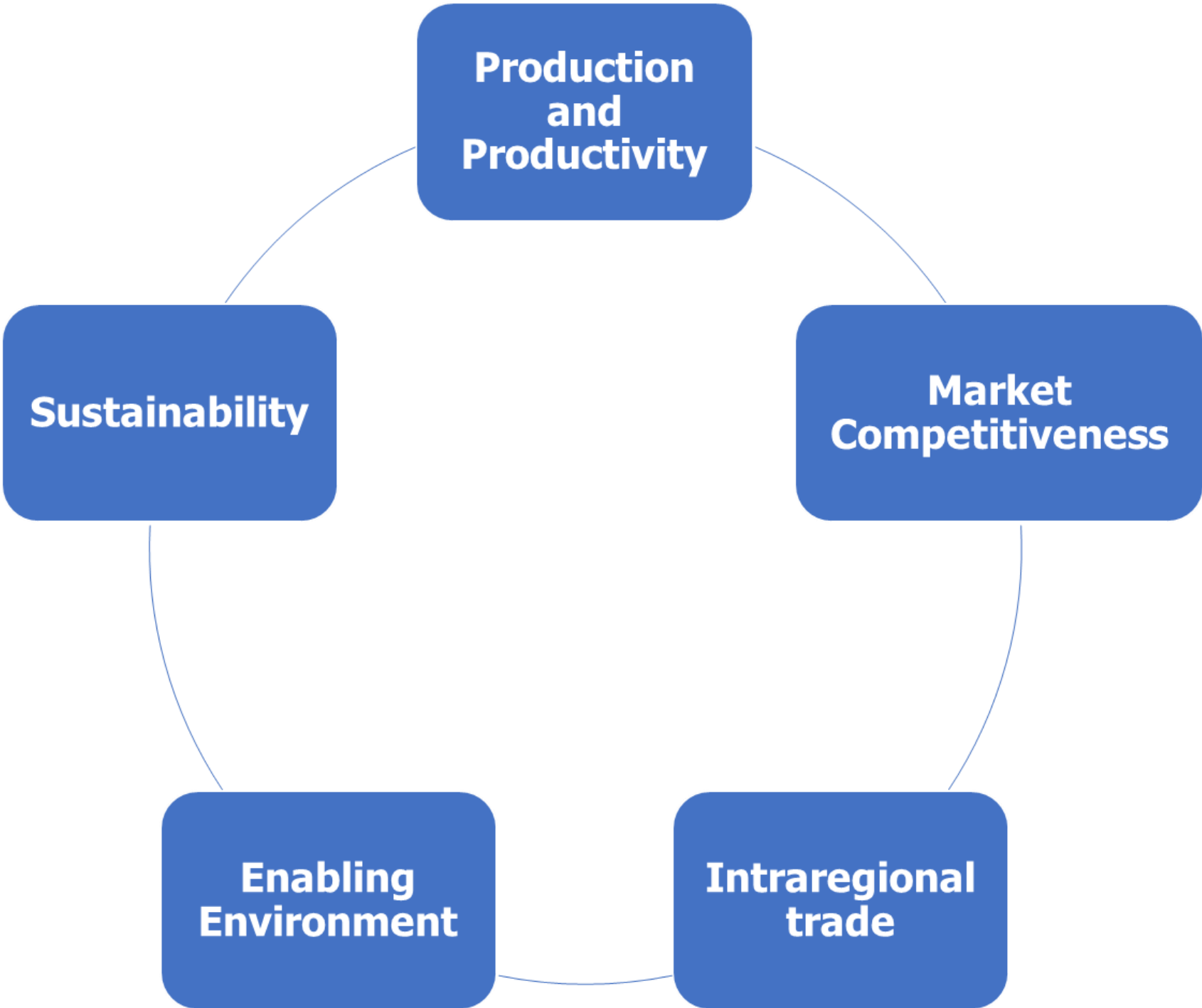
❑ VISION:

‘a vibrant rice sector for sustainable food, nutrition, and income security in the EAC region’

❑ GOAL:

‘**Double rice production** in the EAC region and improve intraregional trade through sustainable on-farm production measures and enhanced market competitiveness **by 2030**’

❑ ERDS 5 Strategic Objectives:



KEY INTERVENTIONS UNDER EACH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

❑ **SO-1: production and on farm productivity**

- i. Varietal development
- ii. Seed supply
- iii. Soil fertility management
- iv. Water management
- v. Accessibility to cost efficient machineries

❑ **SO-2: market competitiveness**

- i. Production and Processing Costs
- ii. Quality of local rice
- iii. Price differentials and transmission
- iv. Stakeholders' awareness

❑ **SO-3: intra-regional rice trade**

- i. Barriers to input and output trading
- ii. Regional market inefficiencies
- iii. Market Information and Linkages

❑ **SO-4: enabling environment**

- i. Transparency in regulatory frameworks
- ii. Policy adaptation
- iii. Policy coherence
- iv. Policy coordination

❑ **SO-5: sustainability**

- i. Circularity
- ii. Climate-smart production and supply systems
- iii. Inclusiveness (women, youth)
- iv. Global shocks

- ❑ **NOTE:** Activities and performance indicators have been identified under each key intervention



PRIORITIZED INTERVENTIONS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION 2026/2027

❑ 5 concept notes drafted for resource mobilization.

No.	Title of Concept Note	Budget (USD)
1	East Africa Improved Rice Varieties Initiative	1,690,000
2	Strengthening Rice Extension Services in East Africa Project	3,091,000
3	Catalyzing inclusive financial access to Rice value chain actors in the EAC partner states	1,768,000
4	Improving competitiveness of locally produced rice in the region	1,178,000
5	Regional Upskilling of Rice Farmers and Extension Agents in EAC	4,000,000
Total		11,727,000

❑ Other key Interventions

1. Operationalization of EAC Rice Desk – JICA committed to support (*w.e.f April 2026*)
2. Seed Without Borders Initiative – under AfDB support through ENSURE project (*w.e.f July 2026*)
3. Finalization of EAC Irrigation Strategy
4. JICA Survey on Regional Rice Value Chain – under finalization.



Acknowledgement





Thank you
Asante
Merci