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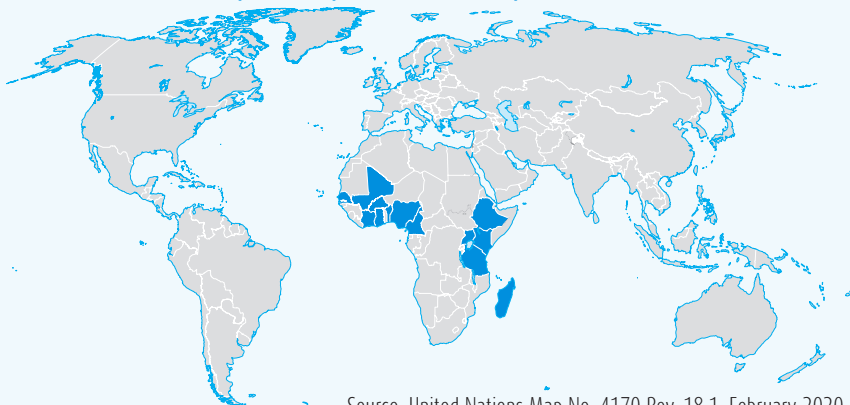


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Improving sustainable rice production in Africa through capacity development and innovation

FAO's collaboration with the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) dates to the early 1970s. In 2016, the partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further the parties' common goal of helping countries in Africa to improve their rice production and advance prospects for rice self-sufficiency. In the context of FAO's Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in Africa, the partnership aims to improve the performance of rice value-chains, to increase food security and enhance livelihoods.

■ Countries where the partnership activities were implemented



Source: United Nations Map No. 4170 Rev. 18.1, February 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

- 2016** Partnership enhanced through new MoU.
- 2017** Training on Rice Breeding and Agribusiness in Rice Value Chain held at AfricaRice Regional Training Center in Senegal.
- 2017** Regional Knowledge Exchange workshop on promoting efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2017** AfricaRice established demonstration plots in 18 project sites across six Nigerian states (Abia, Anambra, Edo, Ekiti, Jigawa, and Nasarawa) to enhance farmers' skills in new rice production technologies, increase rice production and productivity and enhance the adoption of new proven technologies.
- 2018** AfricaRice introduced rice processors in Côte d'Ivoire to a GEM (Grain quality enhancer, Energy-efficient and durable Material) parboiling rice system.
- 2018** High-Level African Ministerial Conference on Rice convened.
- 2018** Support to four countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal) to develop capacities in using the RiceAdvice App.
- 2019** End of the joint implementation of the project "Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information in CARD Countries through South-South Cooperation". The project began in 2015 to strengthen the capacity of Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) countries in collecting timely and reliable statistics on rice area, yields and production using new statistical methods.
- 2019** Workshop on Leveraging Small and Medium Rice Millers for Rural Transformation and Investment in the Rice Sector in Africa.

CONTRIBUTING TO



KEY RESULTS

01 | National rice development strategies

In September 2018, FAO and AfricaRice, together with the African Development Bank and the Government of Senegal, co-organized the High-Level African Ministerial Conference on Rice in Diamniadio, Senegal. The conference led to the development of rice policies and institutional frameworks and recommendations on regional policies and initiatives.

02 | Seed development and multiplication policies, strategies and legislation

Under the USAID-funded Seed Scaling project in Liberia, AfricaRice is working on i) establishing a Seed Board (rules and regulations) and ii) certification by the Seed Board (legislation and certification). About 200 farmers have been trained in seed processing, marketing, and certification. Future activities will involve the training of about 45 field inspectors and laboratory technicians.

03 | Innovative business models

A public-private partnership model for strengthening the rice seed value chain and linking seed producers to the market, based on an Integrated Research for Development business model for the Rice Value Chain, has been developed and is tested in Côte d'Ivoire. As the pivotal organization segment of the value chain that stimulates linkages between all the rice seed value chain actors, this model uses, as its entry point, the market with rice millers. It also facilitates contacts with rice seed producers and small-scale rice seed enterprises, including farmer organizations. The expected result is the production of large quantities of certified seeds of improved rice varieties for different agro-ecologies in Côte d'Ivoire, to satisfy the needs of farmers in a timely manner.

04 | Capacity development on seed multiplication

In Nigeria, 301 seed producers were trained and each received a 50 kg starter-pack of quality rice seed. A total of 15.05 metric tons of rice seed was distributed. Youths were empowered to become rice seed entrepreneurs, receiving tailored training on how to advise farmers about when to make specific interventions in the rice value chain. In 2017, during a single cropping season, nine youth groups under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Programme (ATASP) produced a total of 119 tons of seeds, a part of which was sold to seed companies.

05 | Capacity development on parboiling rice processing

A training workshop, organized in December 2017 by AfricaRice in Côte d'Ivoire, offered women in Gagnoa improved parboiling technologies and skills. Staff from AfricaRice, FAO, Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA), Office Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural (ANADER), Office National de Développement de la Riziculture (ONDR), and Gagnoa rice platform partook in the training on better parboiling practices, which drew 20 women parboilers from two women's associations. At the end of the training workshop, rice stakeholders in Gagnoa formed an oversight committee to ensure the proper utilization and management of the equipment received. The beneficiaries (women parboilers) immediately put what they had learned into practice, adjusting and improving the existing parboiling procedure. As a result of AfricaRice's and FAO's intervention, the quality of parboiled rice from Benkadi and Yorominata women's groups in Gagnoa has significantly improved.

06 | Technology transfer

Under the partnership, in 2018, RiceAdvice - a free Android app developed by AfricaRice to provide farm-specific advice on rice management practices - was introduced in four countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. About 40 youths in the four countries were trained in the RiceAdvice service provision for rice cultivation for small-scale farmers.

07 | Improving agricultural statistics

Ten training workshops, eight pilot surveys and one pre-test were carried out under the "Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information in CARD Countries through South-South Cooperation" project. Nine countries benefited from the activities. Experts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and AfricaRice delivered lectures to participants from the target countries on the survey methods developed during previous cooperation activities with Japan and shared their own experiences. Over 800 officials and enumerators were trained in target countries, thus improving their capacity to plan and manage national rice production surveys. Following the training, they are now expected to manage the pilot survey beyond the project and to instruct other staff.

08 | Leveraging small and medium rice millers

Three pilot studies were conducted in the framework of the project in collaboration with FAO and AfricaRice. The pilot studies were conducted in three countries (Senegal, Tanzania, and Kenya) using the same business-level methodology. The main objective of the study was to assess the business model in three pilot countries using Porter's framework (a method for analyzing competition of a business in a particular industry), focusing on the following areas: (i) human resources, (ii) management, (iii) finance, (iv) processing and packaging, (v) inbound and outbound logistics, (vi) marketing and sales. A three-day workshop was organized by AfricaRice, FAO and the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) to facilitate the development of action plans to advance the rice processing sector for rice value chain upgrading in Africa.

LOOKING FORWARD

FAO and AfricaRice look forward to continued collaboration and supporting countries in sustainable rice value chain development.

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AREAS OF COLLABORATION

FAO and AfricaRice work in partnership in sustainable rice production, distribution and utilization systems, and capacity development in seed multiplication. The ultimate objective of the partnership is to consolidate sustainable rice development systems in Africa through capacity development and scaling up innovations. The partnership has developed several capacity development programs tailored to country needs and supported countries to adopt new varieties and technologies as part of the program to contribute to their rice objectives.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICARICE

AfricaRice is an intergovernmental agricultural research organization with a membership of 28 African countries and is one of the 15 international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR System Organization. AfricaRice's mission is to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa, through rice research, development and partnership activities aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice sector in ways that ensure the sustainability of the farming environment.