



CREATING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE RICE SYSTEMS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Rice consumption in Africa has grown exponentially in recent decades; however, most African countries are not self-sufficient in rice production. In sub-Saharan Africa, it is strongly believed that rice yields could be increased through a holistic strengthening of rice value chains. By increasing and improving production, countries would therefore be empowered to meet consumer demand for rice.

This project was formulated in the context of South-South Cooperation (SSC) to contribute to the development of sustainable rice systems in sub-Saharan Africa by creating and leveraging partnerships between international, national and local actors from both the public and private sectors. Elements of its design included the promotion and production of the seeds of improved rice varieties, the improvement of post-harvest techniques among local farmers, and the identification, dissemination and adoption of good agricultural practices (GAPs) and effective rice production technologies.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Under Output 1, efficient rice production systems were supported through the promotion of GAPs and the upscaling of effective technologies. This was achieved through the distribution of inputs, including seeds, fertilizer and gender-sensitive, labour- and time-saving equipment. These inputs were coupled with training, capacity development sessions and workshops on a variety of topics for actors along the rice value chain. Under Output 2, comprehensive agribusiness models were developed in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. Access to capital and markets was also facilitated under this Output. The focus of Output 3 was the development and promotion of effective policies for institutions and markets. This included engagement with a variety of partners to harmonize existing policies and initiatives of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The results achieved under Output 4 are expected to lead to a reduction in post-harvest losses and improved grain quality through the diffusion of threshing and milling technology and the support of private-sector involvement in the promotion of local rice. The focus of Output 5 was the development of irrigated and integrated rice systems in Uganda and Cameroon, where farmers benefited from small-scale irrigation tools and training. The final Output supported increased production and productivity through the identification and dissemination of technologies for the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Activities under this Output also developed the capacities of extension and agricultural organizations, as well as women and youth along the rice value chain.

Regional knowledge-exchange activities, training workshops and study tours were organized within the SSC framework. The development of rice policies and institutional frameworks was supported in beneficiary countries, and recommendations on regional policies and initiatives were formulated at the High-Level African Ministerial Conference on Rice in September 2018.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 5 060 344

Duration

February 2016 – December 2019

Resource Partner

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Beneficiaries

The Governments of the targeted countries; national and international partners involved in rice development and investment programmes; and rural farmers and other actors on the rice value chain in sub-Saharan Africa

IMPACT

The results achieved through project are expected to lead to more sustainable and productive rice systems in Africa. In turn, these systems will lead to enhanced rice value chains in the targeted countries and increased food security and livelihoods for smallholder farmers in the region.

ACTIVITIES

- The production, multiplication of improved rice seeds was promoted through a series of partnerships in order to facilitate access to these seeds for farmers.
- Awareness-raising campaigns were carried out on GAPs and new production technologies, and training materials on innovative and sustainable production processes were disseminated.
- The participation of women and youth in rice seed production was promoted, and their capacities were strengthened for more effective participation in the rice value chain.
- The capacities of extension workers were strengthened through training on mechanization technologies, irrigation and agricultural water management and production inputs.
- Training for young people, farmers, extension officers and trainers was carried out in FFSs and JFFLSs.
- The creation of innovation platforms was supported, as was effective private-sector participation in the rice value chain.
- Public-private partnerships were fostered for the development of rice systems.
- Resource mobilization for irrigated and integrated rice systems was supported.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

FAO: GCP/RAF/489/VEN

Project Title

Partnership for sustainable rice systems development in sub-Saharan Africa

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Partnerships and Outreach

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CB3598EN/1/02.21