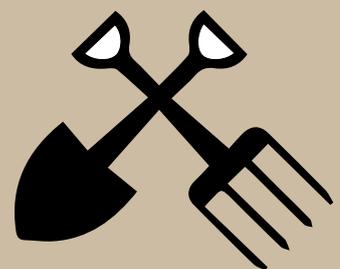
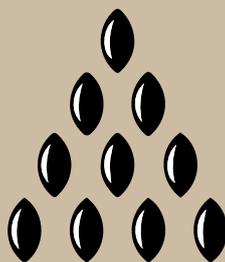
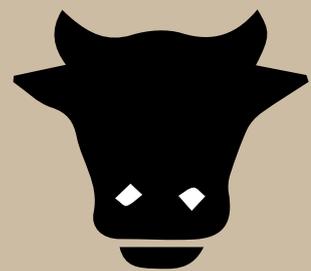
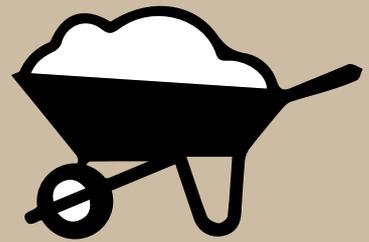
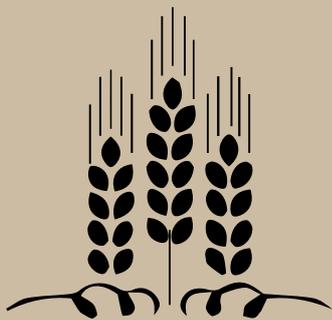




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Knowledge exchange on the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa through South-South Cooperation



# Workshop report

## **Knowledge exchange on the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa through South-South Cooperation**

Elmina, Ghana  
7-11 August 2017

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# Abstract

The Regional Knowledge Exchange on the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa took place from 7 to 11 August 2017 in Elmina, Ghana. The workshop brought together over 40 participants from ten countries and technical partner institutions involved in the implementation of the regional project "Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa" (GCP/RAF/489/VEN).

The key objectives of the workshop were primarily (1) to discuss priorities and plans for continued project implementation at country and at regional level, and (2) to facilitate the regional exchange of knowledge and experiences on sustainable rice production intensification and rice value chain.

As a result of workshop discussion, a number of proposals were put forward for study tour exchanges to disseminate best practices on rice value chain development. These include exchange on seed systems, irrigation, post-harvest losses and mechanization. Study tours would be coordinated with regional and global research institutions such as Africa Rice and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in collaboration with FAO.

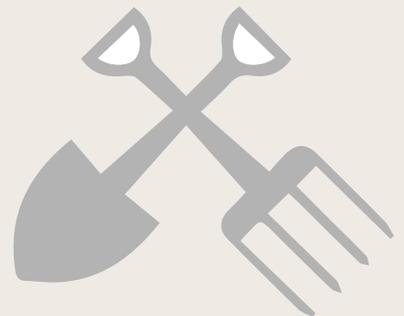
It is envisaged that the knowledge exchange will provide a catalyst for the dissemination of best practices in Africa along the rice value chains through the practical adoption of innovative tools and approaches to boost productivity and enhance competitiveness of African rice farmers, processors and traders.





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# Acronyms

AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
CARD	Coalition for African Rice Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IITA	The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
KAFACI	Korea-Africa Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative
KATC	Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre
NCAM	National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRDS	National Rice Development Strategy
PARDA	Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa
RDA	Rural Development Administration
SSC	South-South Cooperation



# Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the organizers of the Regional Knowledge Exchange on the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa. The findings and recommendations from this regional workshop formed the basis of this report.

Workshop coordination was led by Peter Anaadumba, South-South Cooperation Officer, Regional Office for Africa with the support of Christina Algeri, Joan Nimarkoh, Tofiq Braimah, David Youngs, Mildred Hometwou Josephine Duah-Boakye and Emefa Mensah Brande.

Communications assistance was provided by Liliane Kambirigi and Samuel Nyarko.

The authors are grateful for the collaboration of key technical partners who actively engaged with national counterparts during the five-day workshop, namely Africa Rice, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).

In particular, sincere thanks go to Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, for his guidance and leadership in the formulation and delivery of the regional knowledge exchange.



# Background

Rice production is of central importance to food security in the region. In recognition of the economic potential of the rice sector, African governments are increasingly focusing on rice value chain development as a platform for agricultural growth and commercialization. Rice production is also highlighted as a major example of agriculture's potential for income and employment generation, and a critical entry point for poverty reduction in Africa's rural communities.

Nevertheless, rice producers in Africa are faced with numerous challenges such as the lack of adequate tools and machinery for land preparation and harvesting alongside significant post-harvest losses of between 15-25%. The availability of locally-manufactured small-scale machinery is regarded as fundamental to efforts to improve the quality of rice production and limit the scale of post-harvest losses.

South-South Cooperation is a major tool in the exchange of agricultural best practices and innovation. FAO is working closely with knowledge and research institutions to scale up the application of technologies to enhance agriculture and rural development in the global south.

The FAO Regional Office for Africa is currently implementing the regional project Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa (PARDA). The project incorporates the sharing of technologies and innovations among beneficiary countries, as well as capacity building, while facilitating access by smallholders, especially women and young people, to inputs and small-scale agricultural equipment in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

Under FAO's capacity development framework and in line with PARDA project objectives, the SSC Africa team organized the Regional Knowledge Exchange on the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa to provide an effective platform to share knowledge, experiences and best practices for sustainable rice intensification and provide guidance on the documentation of innovative models.

It is expected that the regional exchange will contribute towards building the capacity of Africa's member states to achieve enhanced rice production systems and accelerate rice value chain development.

# Workshop session

## DAY ONE

The workshop began with an introduction of the key meeting objectives and the planned activities over the course of five days. Peter Anaadumba, the Regional Coordinator for South-South Cooperation for Africa, emphasized the contribution of the workshop to knowledge sharing and exchange which was regarded as critical to accelerating the development of the rice sector in Africa.

This was followed by a case presentation from Uganda on national rice production which outlined key policies and interventions contributing to rice sector development. Major government priorities addressed the dissemination of research and technologies, fertilizer application and certified seed production and distribution.

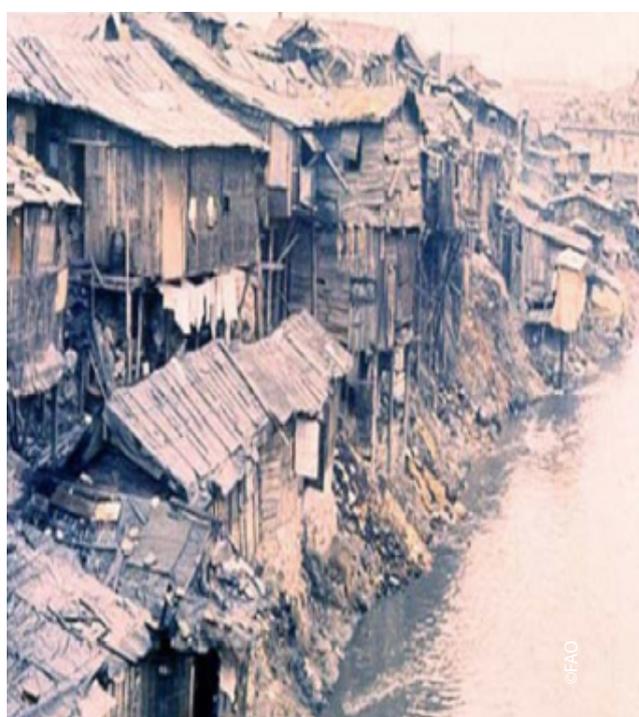
During the discussion participants highlighted the importance of production constraints on efforts to improve crop yield and the continued challenge of rice importation in the country. The value of institutional frameworks for rice policy reform was highlighted as a factor for driving innovation.

The case study from Cameroon presented major trends on rice production and the impact of the national rice development strategy in promoting best practices across

the rice value chain. They covered such topics as the dissemination of new varieties and the introduction of irrigated rice systems leading to substantial improvements to local rice production. Key discussion points included the training of rice farmers, establishment of training centers and their role in contributing to improving capacity of farmers by enabling them to adopt new practices and technologies. Moreover, the stronger partnership among the farmers and the private sector was underlined as key for the success of rice reforms.

A presentation on rice production in Korea was delivered by RDA (Rural Development Administration), which chartered the transition from traditional peasant agriculture to modern commercialised sector. Major factors contributing to Korea's Green Revolution in rice were highlighted, which included the development of high yielding varieties, the dissemination of enhanced technologies and rice policy development. International cooperation with global research institutions such as IRRI was also cited as instrumental to transformation of the rice sector alongside significant investment in public farm extension.

FIGURE 1: Downtown Seoul: 1950's and present day



Discussion points were centred on the critical contributions of public research and farm extension and the successful dissemination new technologies and varieties, which drove Korea's rice revolution. Notably, participants highlighted the significance of irrigation promotion for rice sector development and the need to continue to practice sustainable water management in the shift towards commercialized agriculture. Other key factors for success included the coordination of credit through farmers cooperatives developed in partnership with government alongside the critical role of rapid mechanization in delivering substantial increase in rice yield.

This was followed by a case study presentation from Kenya on national rice production featuring best practices on seed system development, water conservation and mechanization of both production and processing. Climate change and crop pest management were regarded as key constraints on rice sector development.

During the discussion, rising rice consumption was explained by increasing urbanization and migration of refugees. Participants also addressed the role of agriculture machinery in modernizing the rice sector which has been reflected by the increased use of tractors at farm level. It was suggested that the sustainability of the project could be improved by leasing machinery instead of providing free distribution.

During the presentation from Benin, the contribution of rice to national food security was underlined alongside the production trends and a summary of

major programme interventions. The creation of an interactive knowledge and information platform Rice Advice (developed in partnership with Africa Rice) was highlighted as an example of the best practices in addition to the promotion of accessible harvesting machinery.

Key discussion points covered the significant growth in rice production in recent years, followed by a sharp decline after a change in government in 2015. It was noted that national rice policies were under review and new reforms were in progress. In addition, the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms involving research institutions, rice producers, processors and traders within rice sector was raised.

The presentation from Mali provided an overview of national policies and programmes in support of rice development, and highlighted best practices on sustainable rice production using an ecosystem approach with emphasis on sustainable land management and the dissemination of enhanced post-harvest technologies.

Participants highlighted the successful performance of rice sector which was attributed to the leadership of government in the effective coordination of rice value chain development including action on reducing rice importation. Furthermore, the creation of national rice platforms was an important feature of rice policy reform due to its wide range of stakeholders including seeds producers, farmers and women's groups who were supported on business plan development.



## DAY TWO

The Regional Knowledge Exchange was formally opened by Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa alongside representatives from CARD, Africa Rice and IRRI. During his address, Mr. Tijani highlighted the role of the rice value chain in realising African agriculture's potential for income and employment generation and poverty reduction. Mr. Tijani emphasised the need to accelerate investments to boost local rice production and to reduce rice import dependence.

Africa Rice underlined the importance of the rice sector as a strategic industry of high priority for the food security in Africa, and its contribution to nutrition particularly in West Africa.

Following the opening ceremony, the beneficiary countries were asked to provide a summary of priority areas for project implementation. The list is as follows:

- seed production (availability), mechanization services (Mali);
- mechanized labour-saving practices (harvesting, drying – value addition), seed production (Uganda);
- production intensification, youth engagement training (Cameroon);
- seed quality and dissemination, mechanization, post-harvest activities, capacity building on best practices along the value chain (Benin);
- seed production and application of improved varieties, quality inputs, mechanization, post-harvest loss reduction (Kenya).

### FAO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION STRATEGY IN AFRICA

A presentation was delivered on FAO's South-South Cooperation Strategy in Africa which outlined the main types for SSC agreements and key steps in approaching

SSC implementation. Examples were provided for the major SSC interventions in the Africa region such as the FAO-China-Uganda project and the FAO-Angola project delivered in partnership with Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA, The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture).

During the discussion, it was noted that SSC partnerships are based on mutual agreement between parties to ensure cost effectiveness for planned activities. Morocco was presented as a good example of sharing best practices on water technology where SSC recently organized an exchange to demonstrate new methods and approaches. Models on irrigation infrastructure and investment were proposed as a potential area for future exchange.

Nigeria's case study on rice production provided an overview of the Rice Transformation Agenda (RTA) and its key achievements covering large scale input distribution, assistance to rice millers, support for the post-harvest handling and infrastructure development.

Major discussion points included the focus of the RTA on smallholder farmers who were stated to account for 70% of national rice production. The government is currently engaging with the private sector on increasing commercial rice investment. At present, the promotion of post-harvest technologies is ongoing, which includes training on processing, i.e., parboil techniques in partnership with Africa Rice. Funding for the Rice Transformation Strategy (RTA) is provided mainly by the government with technical and financial assistance from development partners, i.e., African Development Bank (AfDB).

A Review of National Rice Development Strategies was presented by CARD which covered support to NRDS implementation at country level including gap analysis, project cycle management and lobbying for funds. Capacity development activities contributed to the



establishment of platform for mutual learning between the public and private sector and the publication of knowledge products.

During the discussion, participants raised the issue of avoiding the one-size-fits-all approach for planning national rice interventions. It was emphasized that CARD is not a funding institution, but works with partners to source financing for government, whilst technical assistance is available to support countries on resource mobilization. In addition, future development of NRDS will go beyond government to include private sector actors.

Participants were provided with an overview of rice production in Thailand which presented a summary of national rice sub-ecosystems and stressed the impact of rice cultivation technology. Best practices featured the promotion of organic rice production, sustainable seed management and irrigation development. During the discussion, the issue of Thailand's global comparative advantage in rice production was attributed to the large surface coverage area, rather than to the above average crop yield. It was noted that national seed production policy was tightly regulated, where the movement of seeds outside of country was prohibited. However, the possibility exists to collaborate on high yield varieties with African countries in the area of research. The success of Thailand's rice reform was attributed to the adoption of value chain approaches supported through farmers' milling and processing technology development in partnership with farmers' cooperatives.

Information on the Africa Rice Study Centre in Port Louis, Senegal was presented outlining the key facilities of the Centre and the current available course curriculum. Key thematic courses focus on capacity building in relation to the new methods and technologies on rice production,

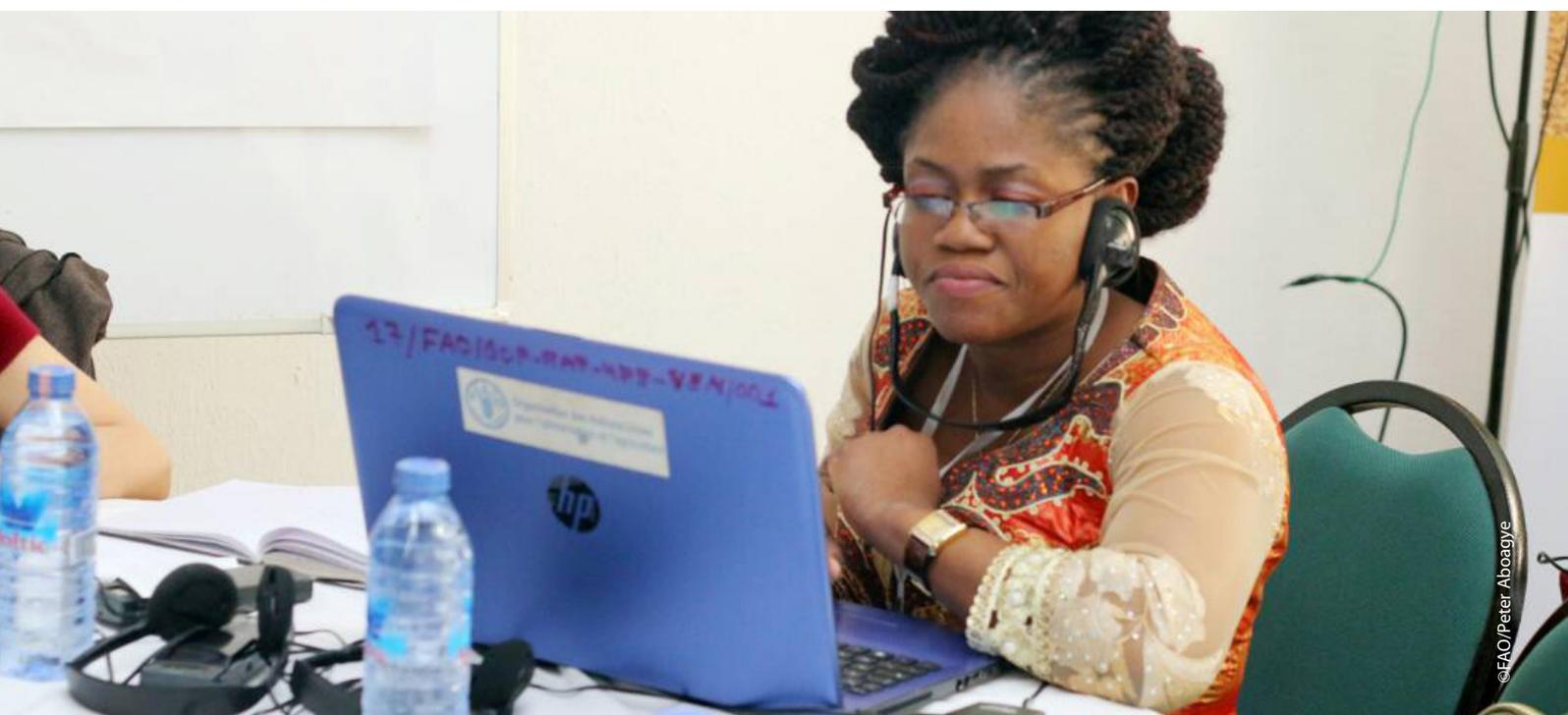
processing and marketing. Specialised courses also target young people engaged in rice enterprises.

It was noted that the provision of training at the Centre was by request, and also shaped by ongoing programs and projects managed by Africa Rice. It is in line with partnerships developed with training institutions to provide wide range of training areas. An integrated rice management course is offered every year. The Centre combines theoretical and practical approaches with 10 hectares available for plot demonstration.

A presentation on the concepts, principles and good practices of rice value chains was made by IRRI. The presentation also outlined research activities in Eastern and Southern Africa. A total of 15 new varieties were introduced in the sub-region alongside capacity building assistance to extension agents and farmers in areas such as seed production.

The discussion raised the issue of the characteristics identified for new rice varieties. It was stressed that while the focus was on yield as the no.1 factor for the development of new varieties, profiles of varieties should be driven by country needs and based on consultation with stakeholders on the field. Biotechnologies were said to play a key role in developing improved varieties that are pest resistant and able to withstand local conditions.

It was proposed that value chain analysis featuring policy, research and key rice stakeholders should also include financing institutions to address the issue of credit.



## DAY THREE

A presentation was given on rice production best practices from Vietnam which outlined the country's transition to a major global rice exporter. Sustainable land management technique and irrigation development were highlighted as key factors for success in addition to substantial improvements to extension services. However, climate change poses a threat to future increases in rice productivity due to recurrent droughts.

The discussion session addressed Vietnam's transition from rice importer to leading global exporter which was attributed to substantial increase in land area allocated for production and the role of government in the provision of extension services, i.e., input distribution and dissemination of modern farm practices. The issue of maintaining the soil fertility was highlighted during production intensification. It was stated that the soil fertility was a priority for research agencies working in collaboration with government. In this regard a concerted effort was made to ensure soil nutrients were preserved despite increased fertiliser use.

A case study presentation on rice production in Tanzania was delivered which was looking at the major policies and programmes supporting national rice sector development. The presentation also gave an overview of best practices including the promotion of new

technologies for rice production intensification using a Junior Farmer Field Life School (JFFLS) approach and the promotion of simple and affordable mechanization methods, in addition to the improved irrigation infrastructure.

Discussion focused on Tanzania's record as the first country to achieve rice self-sufficiency in Africa, which was regarded as an example of the best practices in the region for other African countries to learn from. A combination of programmes and projects implemented by the government to support the shift from traditional to modern methods was outlined, in particular, the use of good seed varieties, fertilizer application, and adoption of pest reduction methods. Government-led reforms were attributed for the increasing national rice productivity from 1 to 3 tonnes per hectare.

Enhanced youth employment in agriculture was highlighted as a key government priority. Partnerships with local government which contributed to the allocation of land to the youth for rice production were referred to as an example of best practice. The importance of providing information and guidelines on the promotion of youth was emphasized alongside recommendations for the improved inclusion of women to ensure gender balance.



New agriculture technologies were viewed as key to engaging the youth and improving sector performance. Labour-saving techniques such as manual transplanters and push weeders were introduced, which were strongly preferred by young over old farmers.

This was followed by a case study presentation on rice production in Guinea. The presentation outlined the context of rice production in the country and provided a summary of best practices such as the establishment of seed and extension centres and the introduction of new rice varieties.

A summary of key constraints encountered in relation to rice production included low production rates, undeveloped processing infrastructure, limited credit availability and isolated markets undermining market linkages for rice farmers. In addition, poor extension and transportation services were also raised.

The issue of how to best engage NGO's in project implementation was discussed. The selection of NGO's based on specific criteria and targeted to support agricultural activities across a range of districts was outlined.

A second presentation was provided by IRRI on the global training programme highlighting the institution's extensive portfolio of courses which included best practices on rice production from across the world and were supported by over 300 scholars. IRRI emphasized their range of course formats targeting policy makers, extension agents and their inclusion of farmer-centred learning.

Under the training programme, a wide range of courses are available which are conducted mainly in English, although material may be translated into other languages. Course costs vary depending on the area covered (on average USD \$1,000 per week) with no subsidies or scholarship available. Provided training includes a range of learning methods such as face-to-face, practical field work and ICT-based (Information and Communication Technology). Modules are adapted to meet the needs of end users including non-literate rural communities.

Participants raised concerns over the application of biotechnology and its impact on the environment. In response, IRRI provided assurances that the organization maintained the highest international standards to ensure best practices on food safety. Regulatory and legal concerns in several countries are routinely addressed.

The Korean Rural Development Administration delivered a presentation on the Africa Rice Development partnership which included information on the Korea-Africa Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KAFACI) currently in operation with 5 programmes and 11 projects covering a range of areas from food crops to agriculture extension.

The discussion highlighted the criteria for selecting countries to participate in the training courses. It was confirmed that the participant selection was decided collectively between Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Africa Rice and KAFACI. Currently, the Korea cooperation programme included 20 countries in the pilot phase. However, it was proposed that more African countries would be included in the next phase.



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## DAY FOUR

Key aspects of rice production in Cote d'Ivoire were presented. The presentation highlighted the key objectives of the national rice development strategy and the progress achieved under the current reforms.

Growing trend in rice consumption due to the production being lower than the national demand was discussed in relation to an increase in rice imports. The contribution of rice import to other neighboring countries was also highlighted.

A special government organization on rice production has been established to work with farmers across the value chain and to assist in capacity development support. It was noted that the government played an important role in facilitating credit access for farms through the support of private institutions. The FAO regional project on rice development was equipped to support production issues, coordination of extension agents and channeling support to producer organizations.

A case study on rice production in Senegal was presented featuring information on key trends from the rice sector and best practice on rice production intensification.

During the discussion, the issue of government support for the mechanization was highlighted in raising the quality of rice at local level. It was noted that a platform

had been established to certify the rice quality standard including local processors. The role of agricultural banks and their contribution to the improvement of the farm credit was also underlined with reference to the provision of farm loans at low commercial rates.

### WORKING GROUPS ON RICE STUDY EXCHANGES

The working group session started with a brief explanation of the exercise and guidance on key areas to be covered in working groups for the preparation of the draft study exchange plan.

Participants were requested to agree on a number of elements including the study exchange modalities, i.e., policy dialogue or farmer-to-farmer exchange, study focus areas, models of best practice on rice value chain development (with country examples), proposed stakeholders for participation (including marginal groups such as women and youth) and preferred training institutions (including at least one in the Africa region and one international organization). Lastly, participants were asked to tentatively schedule an appropriate period for the proposed study exchange ranging from late 2017 to mid-2018.



Four working groups were formed to deliberate on study exchange proposals in the following thematic areas:

1. Seed Systems
2. Irrigation
3. Mechanization
4. Post-Harvest Losses

Working groups selected a combination of exchange modalities including farmer-to-farmer exchanges and policy dialogues.

Under seed systems, the selected study exchange focus areas included the covered seed production, marketing and distribution, in addition to the sustainable land management. For irrigation, focus areas considered were irrigation technology targeting smallholder farmers and policy dialogues on irrigation reform. Participants in the mechanization group covered production, processing and post-harvesting areas including topics such as small scale farm machinery and storage facilities. Lastly, in relation to the post-harvest losses, study focus areas identified were the basic improved technologies on harvesting, transportation and threshing, in addition to the drying and storage techniques.

Highlighted models of best practice featured rice systems in Brazil, Thailand, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire.

Stakeholders for participation in the proposed study exchange included government officials engaged in rice policy formulation, coordinators involved in implementation of the rice projects at the national level, extension workers, alongside the rice producers (including youth and women farmers) in addition to the processors and those working in the production of farm machinery.

Preferred training institutions to facilitate the study exchange featured Africa Rice, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Rural Development Administration (RDA) of Korea, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) in Nigeria and the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre (KATC) in Tanzania.

Proposals for scheduling of the study exchange ranged from late 2017 to early or mid-2018.

During the discussion, participants agreed that the duration of the training would depend on the agreement between FAO, partner institutions and government counterparts, while the timing of study exchange should coincide with activities in line with the FAO regional rice project where possible. It was also suggested that the planned exchange could integrate timing of crop cycles for Asian countries to better learn about the respective production best practices. The number of participants per country would depend on the availability of resources and format of the training provided. Similarly, the number of institutions would be narrowed down depending on the availability. Lastly, Tanzania confirmed its availability to host countries interested in learning about their successful experience of rice sector reform.

Partner institutions were given an opportunity to react to the proposals for the study exchange provided by the participants. FAO viewed all the study exchange proposals to be feasible and in line with the project needs. Participants were reminded of the long consultation process involved in the formulation of study exchange, i.e., the processing of Letters of Agreement. FAO was encouraged by the rich variety of research institutions recommended, and underlined that the final decisions on the selection of institution would be based on the availability of resources. Following the regional workshop, the proposals would be reviewed by FAO internally, and country teams would receive feedback on the next steps.

Africa Rice emphasized the importance of private sector as a key stakeholder in the planning of study exchange and recommended the strong participation of rice entrepreneurs. Furthermore, Africa Rice also highlighted the added value of including the good practices for mechanization and disseminating advice on maintenance by private suppliers.

It was proposed that supplementary financial resources for the study exchange could be sourced from government ministries in partnership with development agencies and the private sector.

IRRI welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with African countries on the proposed study exchange, and confirmed that all technical areas highlighted were covered by their existing curriculum.



## DAY FIVE

A brief discussion was held on implementation of the regional project “Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa” (GCP/RAF/489/VEN) and the priority actions for delivery. Various countries raised issues relating to the distribution of laptops assigned to the project. It was proposed that those who were experiencing delays in receiving laptops would be contacted bilaterally to resolve the issue.

It was confirmed that, due to the management instructions, vehicles would no longer be procured under the project. However, drivers could be recruited to support project activities as requested. All project focal points were requested to take note and amend their procurement plans accordingly.

Clarification was given on the financial allocations at the country level, particularly in relation to the lump sum and Daily subsistence Allowance (DSA) payments.

Bilateral meetings were requested by a selection of project coordinators to discuss specific issues encountered during delivery.

The identification of focal points within the ministry of agriculture was raised in relation to the recruitment of

national coordinators. It was noted that the decision to recruit a technical or operational consultant to assist with the project monitoring rests ultimately with Food and Agriculture organization Representatives (FAORs).

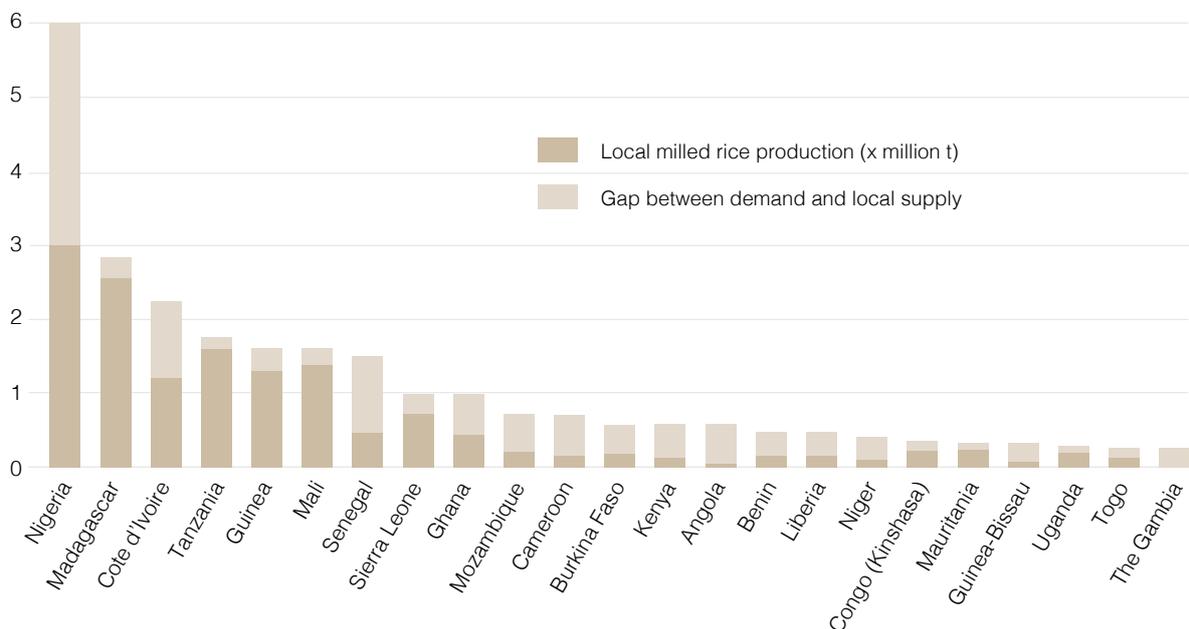
Considering the relatively limited resources to support project delivery, it was proposed to supplement existing resources with national and donor funding where available.

Africa Rice delivered a second presentation on Rice Technology Transfer Systems in Africa which outlined the challenges in African rice production and consumption. The presentation also provided an overview of the Partnership for sustainable rice systems development in Africa (PARDA).

Key discussion points included the establishment of mills for youth farmers and the availability of farm machinery for harvesting, in addition to the production of bio-charcoal to be used for input distribution.

The importance of translating the advice on rice production methods and best practices for farmers into local languages was emphasized.

FIGURE 2: Rice self-sufficiency ratio in selected countries



## RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

What has been deduced from the workshop indicates that the rice still remains a top priority crop for most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and that the governments are willing and ready to support the rice production as an important staple food strategy. In this context, most of the recommendations made by the participants signal that there are still additional supports needed in the following identified areas.

FAO, as part of its support for the implementation of the Rice Programme in the region, through the Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa project, will be in partnership with the identified institutions in the region and Asia, and arrange for the training and capacity building in the identified areas. These training and capacity building will also be based on demand by the countries.

The major lessons shared during this workshop are presented below, as summarized from the participant discussions, presentations and reports.

- i. Significant increment in budget support for the capacity building, training and extension for ministries staff and farmers is still needed in the rice sector.
- ii. The region has doubled its rice production over the last five years. Despite this effort, consumption of rice is on the increase with more demand for rice production.
- iii. Support intervention with a focus on high quality seeds production and distribution is still needed.
- iv. Most countries still need training and capacity building in seeds production, post-harvest handling, storage and distribution, and integrated rice management, targeting key resources personnel from research, development and farmer organizations
- v. Results in the presentations from the various countries indicate a wealth of knowledge from services providers in the rice industry across the region. It was therefore recommended that some of the exchange study tour for mechanization and post-harvest handling can be organized with Africa Rice, National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM), and IRRI-Africa among other institutions.
- vi. As part of the recommendations, it was agreed that documenting the rice value chain experience from the countries and the programmes would help disseminate and share good practices in the region.
- vii. While Asian countries have more budget for research, it appears that the sub-Saharan countries spend little budget for R&D on rice.



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# Agenda

Knowledge exchange on the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa through South-South Cooperation 7- 11 August 2017

## DAY 1 / Monday, 07 August 2017

TIMING	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ FOCAL POINT
8:30-9:00	Registration of Participants	Secretariat
9:00-9:15	Workshop Objectives and Overview	SSC Officer FAO/RAF
9:15-9:30	Introduction of Participants	All
9:30-10:15	Group Photo and Tea Break	Communications Focal Point/ Secretariat
10:15-10:45	FAO South-South Cooperation Strategy and Activities in Africa	SSC Officer FAO/RAF
<b>SESSION 1: STATUS OF RICE VALUE CHAIN AND RELEVANT RICE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS / CHAIR: FAO</b>		
11:00-11:45	Rice Technology Transfer Systems in Africa	Africa Rice
11:45-12:15	Q & A	Facilitator
12:15-13:30	Lunch Break	Secretariat
13:30-14:15	Rice Value Chains: Concepts, Principles and Good Practices	TBC
14:15-14:30	Questions and Answers	Facilitator
14:30-15:00	Perspectives from Kenya	Project Coordinator
15:00-15:30	Perspectives from Benin	Project Coordinator
15:30-15:40	Q & A	Facilitator
15:40-16:15	Tea Break	Secretariat
16:15-16:45	Perspectives from Mali	Project Coordinator
16:45-17:00	Q & A	Facilitator
17:00	End of Day One	

## Day 2 / Tuesday, 08 August 2017

TIMING	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ FOCAL POINT
9:00-9:30	Opening Remarks/Welcome Statement - Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director General/ Regional Representative for Africa	ADG's office
9:30 -9:45	Statement from Africa Rice	Africa Rice
9:45 -10:00	Recap of Day 1	Facilitator
SESSION 2: EXCHANGING NATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON RICE PRODUCTION CHAIR: AFRICA RICE		
10:00-10:30	Rice Production in Korea	Dr. Cho – RDA Korea
10:30-11:00	Case Study on Rice Production: Nigeria	SSC Project Coordinator
11:00-11:30	Q & A	Facilitator
11:30-12:00	Tea Break	Secretariat
12:00-12:30	Review of National Development Rice Strategies – Promoting Rice Production in Selected Countries	CARD
12:30-13:00	Case Study on Rice Production: Thailand	SSC Project Coordinator
13:00-13:30	Q & A	Facilitator
13:30- 14:30	Lunch Break	Secretariat
14:15-14:45	Presentation of Africa Rice Study Centre of Excellence - Senegal	Africa Rice
15:00-15:30	Q & A	Facilitator
15:30-16:00	Tea Break	Secretariat
16:00-16:30	Case Study on Rice Production: Cameroon	SSC Project Coordinator
16:30-17:00	Q & A	Facilitator
17:00	End of Day Two	
19:00	Cocktail	Secretariat

## Day 3 / Wednesday, 09 August 2017

TIMING	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ FOCAL POINT
9:00-9:30	Recap of Day 2	Facilitator
SESSION 3: EXCHANGING NATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON RICE PRODUCTION (CONTINUED) CHAIR: FAO		
9:30-10:00	Rice Production Best Practices from Vietnam	Gov Rep
10:00- 10:30	Case Study on Rice Production: The United Republic of Tanzania	SSC Project Coordinator
10:30-11:00	Q & A	Facilitator
11:00-11:30	Tea Break	Secretariat
11:30-12:00	Case Study on Rice Production: Guinea	SSC Project Coordinator
12:00-12:30	Presentation on Rice Centre of Excellence - Philippines	International Rice Research Institute
12:30-13:00	Q & A	Facilitator
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break	Secretariat
14:30-15:30	Team Building Exercise	Facilitator
15:30-16:00	Tea Break	Secretariat
15:30-16:30	Team Building Exercise (continued)	Facilitator
16:30	End of Day Three	

## Day 4 / Thursday, 10 August 2017

TIMING	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ FOCAL POINT
9:00-9:30	Recap of Day 3	Facilitator
SESSION 4 EXCHANGING NATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON RICE PRODUCTION (CONTINUED) CHAIR – AFRICA RICE		
9:30-10:00	Case Study on Rice Production: Cote d'Ivoire	SSC Project Coordinator
10:00- 10:30	Case Study on Rice Production : Senegal	SSC Project Coordinator
10:30-11:00	Q & A	Facilitator
11:00-11:30	Tea Break	Secretariat
11:30-12:00	Rice Production Best Practices from Thailand	Gov Rep
12:00-12:30	Proposal on South-South Knowledge Exchange Visits 2017/18	Facilitator
12:30-13:00	Q & A	Facilitator
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	Secretariat
14:00-15:00	Working Groups	
15:00-16:00	Plenary	
16:00-16:30	Reaction from Project Coordinator and Partners	SSC Officer FAO/RAF
16:30	End of Day Three	

## Day 5 / Friday, 11 August 2017

TIMING	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ FOCAL POINT
8:30-9:00	Recap of Day 4	Facilitator
SESSION 5: SSC KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON RICE PRODUCTION - THE WAY FORWARD		
9:00 - 10:00	SSC Project Implementation / Next Steps & Actions	SSC Consultant
10:00-10:15	Tea Break	Secretariat
10:15-10:30	Presentation from Africa Rice	Africa Rice
10:30-11:15	Conclusion and Next Steps	SSC Officer FAO/RAF
11:15-12:00	Closing Remarks	SSC Officer FAO/RAF
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break	Secretariat
13:00	End of Day 5	Secretariat
14:00	Visit to Cape Coast Castle	Secretariat



## List of Participants

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# Press release

## ONLINE

FAO engages stakeholders in South-South Cooperation approach to boost rice production in Africa

### ADVOCATING FOR EFFICIENT RICE FARMING PRACTICES AND VALUE CHAINS

10 August 2017, Elmina, Cape Coast (Ghana) – African farmers require high-yielding rice technologies to produce rice in higher commercial volumes to create more jobs, improve livelihoods and ensure continuous food security in sub-Saharan Africa.

“The demand for rice is growing at more than six percent per year – faster than for any other major food staple in sub-Saharan Africa – but the local production has been unable to keep pace with the demand, and the continent continues to rely on imports to meet its increasing demand for rice”, said Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa.

Opening a five-day workshop in Elmina on Knowledge exchange for the promotion of efficient rice farming practices and value chains in sub-Saharan Africa through South-South Cooperation,

Mr. Tijani highlighted the rice value chain as a major example of agriculture’s potential for income and employment generation and a critical entry point for poverty reduction.

“There has been a sharp rise in rice production in Africa in recent years, but producers in the region continue to contend with the lack of adequate and sufficient planting materials, tools, machinery for land preparation, harvesting, processing and prevention of post-harvest losses,” he added.

Attending the meeting are representatives of the Government of Ghana, Africa Rice, Coalition for Africa Rice Development (CARD), Rural Development Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), as well as FAO.

Josey Kamanda, Programs Leader, Rice Sector Development (Africa Rice), noted that rice is a strategic and priority food security crop in Africa, the single most important source of dietary energy in West Africa and Madagascar, and the third most important for Africa as a whole.

“As the demand-supply gap continues to widen, there is an increasing need for investments that will significantly increase local rice production to reduce the import bill. Over the past several decades, development partners have made investments in rice production. Yield gaps, however, remain high,” he stated.

Growth rates went up to a high eight percent between 2007 and 2012, but there were significant post-harvest losses of between 15 to 25 percent, Africa Rice estimates.

Top rice producing countries in Africa, namely, Nigeria, Madagascar, Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire and Tanzania, have boosted their rice production through the introduction of high-yield technologies and the application of modern rice cultivation techniques, including mechanization.

### FAO SUPPORTS SMALLHOLDER FARMERS FOR SUSTAINABLE RICE PRODUCTION

FAO is actively supporting Africa Rice in the establishment of rice centers of excellence such as the Africa Korea Rice breeding laboratory launched this month in Saint-Louis, Senegal.

Under a USD 5 million regional project on Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa, FAO will support the sharing of technologies and innovations among beneficiary countries, and strengthen capacity-building while facilitating access by smallholders, especially women and young people, to inputs and small-scale agricultural equipment.

It is envisaged that all targeted project beneficiaries located in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda will benefit from the impact of planned actions.

In line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this cooperation between FAO and Africa Rice offers a pathway out of poverty and employment opportunities for young men and women entering job markets.

In 2015, rice production in sub-Saharan Africa was approximately 14.4 million tonnes and consumption around 26 million tonnes, reflecting a self-sufficiency ratio of 55 percent. This increase in demand is caused both by accelerating growth of per capita incomes in most of the countries and high population growth rates. sub-Saharan Africa currently spends about USD 5 billion on rice import annually.

FAO responded to requests received from African Heads of State and ministers of agriculture for increased rice productivity and production by initiating a partnership for sustainable rice systems development in Africa (PARDA).

The initiative sought to mobilize resources and key partners at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels to jointly develop and implement a holistic and comprehensive programme for sustainable rice systems development in the region. PARDA’s expected outputs include increased access to and utilization of quality seeds and appropriate rice varieties.

Within the framework of PARDA, Africa Rice and FAO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that builds on their long-standing collaboration, spanning over a period of over 40 years.

It will provide an effective platform to share knowledge, experiences and best practices for sustainable rice intensification and provide guidance on the documentation of innovative models to enhance rice production systems and accelerate rice value chain development.

### SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION CONTRIBUTES TO SDGS

FAO works closely with knowledge and research institutions to scale up the application of technologies that can enhance agriculture and rural development.

South-South Cooperation approach places emphasis on the mutual sharing and exchange of development solutions as a pathway towards the achievement of regional and national agriculture development goals.

South-South Cooperation among the Global South is a fundamental tool to achieve the SDGs set for 2030. In the context of the big agenda set out by the SDGs, South-South Cooperation is facilitating efforts at enhancing in particular rice production in Africa.

It focuses on facilitating the exchange of agriculture development innovations through a range of methods such as the deployment of experts, policy dialogues, technology exchanges, study tours and learning programmes.





