Project Evaluation Series

Final evaluation of the project "Partnership for sustainable rice systems development in sub-Saharan Africa"

Project code: GCP/RAF/489/VEN

Annex 6. Details on the activities selected by countries

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1. The project mostly targeted the results whose achievement could best bring overall improvement to the rice value chain. According to the Governmental authorities of Tanzania and Senegal met during field missions In all benefiting countries, key stakeholders of rice value chains related to each output planned were involved in the implementation of activities, namely the central governmental authorities in charge of Agriculture; national agricultural research institutes; regional and local authorities and officers in charge of agriculture and rice value chain development; national rice councils and rice desks ; rice growers and their organizations; private sector; and other ongoing projects.

2. In Benin, the project planned activities to contribute to the improvement of efficient rice production systems (Output 1). In this perspective, the project focused on the production of breeder seeds and foundation seeds of improved varieties and the conservation and storage of varietal strains by the National Agricultural Research Institute of Benin (INRAB). The project also planned to evaluate the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) (Output 3) and to make a documented inventory of existing technologies and innovations in rice production and processing, and to produce and publish technical data sheets and manuals on rice production and information materials on integrated rice management in Benin. The project had also planned to promote development, adoption and the dissemination of improved rice varieties. Also with respect to Output 1, the project aimed to use the junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS) approach to strengthen the capacity of farmers, extension agents, trainers of trainers on new rice production methods. The project planned to develop Agribusiness Models (Output 2), through support to existing innovation platforms (IP) and capitalization of good practices in processing rice at the national, regional and international levels. In order to contribute to the sustainable increase in production and productivity in major rice production environments (Output 6), the project conducted adaptation tests and train local artisans to manufacture small equipment (tillage, harvester, thresher, winnower) and training smallholders in the use of adapted small equipment.

3. In Cameroon, the project targeted 5 outputs to be mainly implemented in emerging rice basins in the highland areas and the Bimodal rainfall area, which benefited from only modest support from the public authorities. With respect to Output 1, the project promoted production of improved rice seeds at community level in partnership with the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development of Cameroon (IRAD). Other ongoing projects and producer organizations in two production basins set up plots for production of certified seed in three basins. The aim was to accompany at least one female-dominated cooperative in commercial rice production and quality rice seed including the acquisition of a post-harvest kit, and to involve producer organizations, researchers, extension workers and agronomy students in the participatory varietal selection of more than 200 rice varieties obtained under the KAFACI, AfricaRice and JAICA training in Egypt. Under Output 2, the project supported the revitalization of the NRDS Steering Committee - a platform for dialogue and exchange - and the establishment of innovation centres for rice development. It also accompanied the acquisition of community facilities (motor pumps, power tillers, shops) by cooperatives and fostered learning, management and knowledge sharing in the Rice Value Chain trough exchange visits. Under Output 3, the project the project planned undertook a study to draw a map and a monograph on current rice initiatives, supporting the structuration and strengthening the capacities of the most active farmers organizations (FO) in the target areas as well as the professionalization of these FO in accordance with the OHADA uniform act. Under Output 4, the project has planned to build-up the capacities of farmers groups in post-harvest management and to support the development of

integrated lowland rice production systems. Under output 5, the project planned to support the development of lowland rice production systems.

4. **In Côte d'Ivoire**, the project collaborated with the National Centre of Agronomic Research (CNRA) and rice value chain stakeholders in the implementation process. It planned under output 1 to draw the map of the major rice diseases in selected rice-growing basins and to develop a rice advisory approach with stakeholders at the national level, as well as the rice mechanization approach (PMEA) and to implement the pilot phase of this rice mechanization approach. The project planned to design under output 3 a communication plan for the promotion of Ivorian rice, and, under output 4, to achieve several activities including : the technical capacities reinforcement within the seed conditioning centre, the supply of post-harvest equipment, and the training of seed multipliers in post-harvest good practices. The project also planned to develop synergies in the rice value chain, particularly with the projects CSS Korea GCP/497/ROK and TCP/IVC/3502 on sustainable intensification of production in the lowlands.

5. **In Guinea**, as part of output 1 activities, the project planned to identify 2 rice varieties to be promoted per rice production area (mangrove and alluvial plain) in partnership with specialized institutions, to disseminate innovative and sustainable production processes in Guinea through the dissemination of training materials, the promotion of women and youth groups in rice production, and the development of a communication strategy for the promotion of local rice. The project also planned under Output 2, to support learning, management and knowledge sharing within the rice value chain, and to support the creation of innovation platforms for rice development in Guinea. Under Output 4, the project planned the implementation of a strategy to supply efficient and adapted processing equipment, to strengthen the capacity of women in techniques of processing, conservation and marketing of local rice (by setting up a mini-rice mill for demonstration and training purposes), and to strengthen the capacity of dehulling groups. Overall, 5 rice-basins were targeted in the country. The project established five non-governmental organizations as implementing partners for its activities in all five rice-basins with whom five letters of agreement (LoAs) were signed. The project targeted youth and women's groups.

6. **In Kenya,** the project planned the following activities under Output 1: Support production and maintenance of breeders' seed by national research Centres; develop a rice seed and variety handbook; facilitate rice seed committee to create a stakeholders' platform; support the dissemination of technologies through field days, farmer trainings and demonstrations; procure small scale machinery for production through use of small equipment and machinery, identify and document proven rice production technologies, conduct T.O. F trainings for extension officers, conduct tailor made courses for extension officers and trainings for young farmers and other selected farmer groups. For Output 2, the project planned to conduct a Baseline survey to confirm rice value chain actors and identify missing links in the rice value chain, support adoption and implementation of existing quality standards , mobilized farmers into groups for sustainable rice production. Under the output 3, the project planned to demonstrate appropriate small scale threshing, drying, milling and other appropriate equipment and machinery, support capacity building on postharvest handling for extension agents and farmers and machine operators, and support capacity building for rice value addition. The NRDS evaluation and revision, the M and E missions and mid-term evaluation were planned under Output 4.

7. **In Mali,** under output 1, the project planned to promote the production and multiplication of improved rice seeds in partnership with national research centres, regional organizations

and private sector participants, seed development program networks, seed companies and traders to facilitate better access for farmers to seeds. It was also planned to facilitate smallholder awareness of proven best practices of improved and new production technologies, to promote the participation of women and youth groups to rice seed production, to support extension capacity building in order to increase access to mechanization technologies, irrigation and agricultural water management facilities and production inputs, to support training / internship at the Songhai Centre of Benin and in the institutions for selected young farmers, and promote the development, adoption and dissemination of improved rice varieties (NERICA, ARICA, etc.) for irrigated and rainfed rice growing environments.

8. Under output 2, the project planned to support the development of capacities of rice value chain stakeholders, to further transparency and accessibility to markets and to increased distribution, in order to support an environment conducive to policy and institutional reforms, and to promote the effective participation of the private sector in the rice value chain. Under Output 4, the project planned to promote appropriate Crushing and threshing Technologies for Quality Rice Grains, provide a small-scale harvester, and support private sector participation in the promotion of local rice including packaging and labelling.

9. **In Nigeria**, the project planned under Output 1, the baseline assessment of target clusters: the development of location specific farming calendars; pre-season and post season capacity building for cluster farmers/extension workers on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP); and capacity strengthening of seed producers and community based seeds producers of improved rice seeds. Under Output 2, the project planned to develop capacities of beneficiaries on agribusiness models along the rice value chain, support group formation for rice outgrowers linking them to off-takers and financial institutions to access credit facilities, support learning, and further knowledge management along the rice value chain.

10. Under Output 3, the project planned to review the existing National Rice Development Strategy, engaged relevant stakeholders to ensure harmonization of the project with the existing National Rice Transformation Agenda (RTA) to map out the critical inputs needs under the project. With respect to Output 4, the project has planned to promote appropriate demonstration of threshing and milling and other technologies for quality rice grain. It also planned to present a small scale harvester, set up a small processing mill as demonstration at a project site, develop capacities of rice farmers on processing and post-harvest handling, and develop capacities of small scale millers on packaging and marketing.

11. **In Senegal**, the objective of the project was to contribute to the food security of the populations of the regions of Sédhiou and Kédougou by increasing the production of rainfed rice in the valleys and plateaus, by the processing of post-harvest rice products, the valorization and the marketing of rice products. The implementation of the VEN project was coupled with that of TCP/SEN/3504 "Support for rainfed rice cultivation in Senegal trough farmer field school (FFS) approach" which intervened in the same sites in support of the rice sector. This Technical Cooperation Project covered all other links in the value chain except the processing chain. It provided four types of support to project beneficiaries: (i) input distribution (rice seed, triple NPK 15 fertilizer and Urea 46 percent); ii) capacity building for producers through the FFS approach; (iii) production of breeders' rice seeds, with the participation of the National Agricultural Research Center (CNRA) of Djibelor (Ziguinchor region); and iv) the establishment of a multi-stakeholder rice platform in the Anambé Basin (Vélingara). To avoid dispersion and to complete the missing links of producer support, the project planned to work on the same areas as Technical Cooperation Projects. The project

targeted activities related to outputs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Under Output 1, the project has planned the training of young people in rice and agricultural entrepreneurship. The project focused the development of Output 2 on the creation of public-private partnerships to support the rice value chain development in the targeted region. With respect to Output 3, the project targeted the promotion of local rice consumption and training on rice best practices by Africa Rice and IRRI. Under Output 4, the project planned to acquire power-tillers, threshing and rice husking machines as well as a mini-rice mill in Goudomp. Under Output 6, the project planned to disseminate proven and adopted technologies to producers' organizations. The Agricultural and Industrial Development Company of Senegal (SODAGRI) was entrusted by the Ministry in charge of agriculture to implement the project in the field.

12. **In the United Republic of Tanzania,** the project mainly addressed challenges causing low rice productivity through adoption of SRI using the junior farmer field and life School (JFFLS) approach; it also developed strategies and models to reduce post-harvest losses and provide added value to rice grains. The project implementation focused on 5 irrigation schemes and provided equipment to farmers as well as rice mills to reduce post-harvest losses and improve the grain quality. The project included the beneficiaries in the building of shades to accommodate the rice milling machines and also to fill some gaps in a big governmental project already under implementation named Expanding Rice Production Project that aim is to support the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and an input voucher scheme for rice input packages in project zones with a budget of USD 22.9 million. With this synergy in mind, the project installed rice mills near paddy rice storage warehouses built by the government project. This strategy sought to increase the interest of farmers in storing their paddy in the warehouses, waiting for the best time to transform them and getting a better grain quality and a good selling price by making all necessary equipment available to them.

13. With respect to each output pursued by the project, specific activities were planned as follows. Under Output 1, the project planned to: develop training materials and train 150 youth from five (5) irrigation schemes on SRI through Junior Farmer Field School (JFFLS) at Mkindo Farmers Training Centre; support youth to establish 20 demonstration plots to upscale SRI; support JFFLS groups from 5 selected irrigation schemes with farm inputs (seeds, fertilizers) and farm implement (Push weeders, manual rice trans-planters and line markers); conduct farmer field days for the JFFLS groups to share knowledge and field experience on the established plots; develop documentaries on success stories; create awareness among farmers on how to access improved seeds and take part in seed multiplication.

14. Under Output 2, the project planned to build capacity and create awareness to participants involved in rice value chain and improve their knowledge on agribusiness models. The activities planned under Output 4 aimed to promote the use of appropriate post-harvest practices to smallholder farmers and to: equip 5 newly constructed warehouses with tarpaulins, weighing scales, pallets and moisture metres; purchase and install four rice milling, grading and packaging machines at Kigugu/Mbogo-Komtonga, Msolwa/Ujamaa, Mvumi and Njage irrigation schemes; conduct training of 150 youth from five irrigation schemes on post-harvest management services (PHMS) and agribusiness to reduce crop loss along rice value chain.

15. **In Uganda,** the project intended to deliver 5 Outputs. Under Output 1 it planned to promote the production and multiplication of quality breeder seed and foundation seed at National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) and contract foundation seed

growers; facilitate awareness creations and sensitization with 4 talk shows and 3000 brochures in 4 languages; train through the FFS, farmers, extension officers, trainer of trainers (target 12 FFS to be established); accelerated evaluation, Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) testing of candidate varieties, adoption (target: DUS to be conducted in 2 seasons); dissemination of improved rice varieties (NERICA, ARICA and NamChe varieties) for rain fed and irrigated rice (target: 60 tons of seed distributed); provide inspection and certification of certified seed; developed documentaries on success stories. To achieve Output 2, the project planned to promote appropriate equipment for quality grain (expected 5 seed cleaners, 05 planters procured and availed to farmer groups) and train beneficiaries on operation of the equipment. To achieve Output 4, it planned to promote appropriate post-harvest practices equipment for quality grain (05 threshers, 05 reapers,02 mills procured and availed to groups). Under output 5 the project planned to promote the use of small irrigation equipment; provide starter equipment like hydro-tillers, power tillers, threshers and train the beneficiaries. To achieve output 6 the project chose to support previously tested upscaling of rice production technologies and to organize farmer Field days.