

# Niger State Sustainable Rice Value Chain Support Project

A Matching Grant Fund Project of the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) and, Niger State Agricultural and Mechanization Authority (NAMDA) and Popular Farms and Mills Limited (Stallion rice)

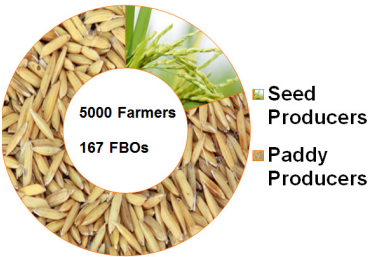


## Goal

The goal of the project is to integrate 5000 rice farmers (30% female farmers) into sustainable and competitive business models that lead to increased paddy production as well as to improvements in quality. As a result, the income of the farmers is expected to double by the end of the 2-year project. This contributes significantly to the reduction of poverty of smallholder farmers in Shiroro and Lapai of Niger State, Nigeria.

## Our Approach

In order to double the yield and income of the beneficiaries, support is given to the beneficiaries through training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and provision of improved technical packages. The beneficiaries are set up into 167 Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs). By supporting contract farming arrangements between farmers and off takers, the project enables farmers to market their product.



Farmers benefit from the following activities:

- Validation and strengthening of existing farmer groups. Provision of foundation and certified seeds and other vital farm inputs such as fertilizer and herbicides.
- Demonstration of improved production and post-harvest techniques for both wet and dry season.
- Farmer Business Schools (FBS) to improve the business and financial skills of the participating farmers.
- Provision of small scale irrigation facilities (tube wells and pumps) to stimulate dry season seed and paddy production and subsequently to upscale production through additional financing arrangement.
- Liaison with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to introduce small scale threshers and winnowers to enhance the quality of paddy.
- Access to finance/financial linkages: NAMDA with the off takers implement a viable business model which engages financial institutions to provide funding to the participating farmer groups.
- Contract farming scheme to provide market linkages and off taker agreement with Popular Rice Mills.



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## Implementing Partners

NAMDA is working with Popular Rice Mills Kano, Jami Nagari, Akon & Associates and Iswa Integrated Ltd for the establishment of an out grower scheme for both seed and paddy production. This ensures a secure market for the farmers and a steady supply of good quality paddy for the off taker.

The certified seeds are provided to the farmers as a means of creating access to quality seeds grown in the communities. NAMDA makes use of its Unified Training & Visit extension system to demonstrate the production of both seed and paddy at community level and promote the use of small scale irrigation.

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