

# Enhancing and Increasing Income of Rice Farmers in Niger State

A Matching Grant Fund Project of the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) and Niger State Rice Investment Consortium (NSRIC) and Onyx Rice Mill

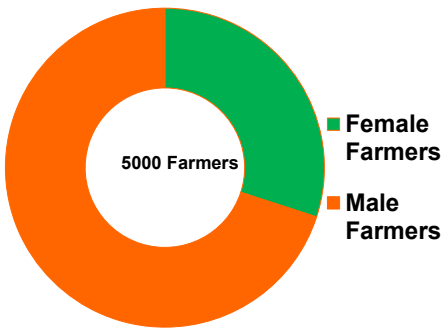


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## Goal

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 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 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.

Introduction of improved seed varieties to the farmers is being adopted as a mechanism of increasing their yield/hectare, income, promote uniformity and as well as reduce prevailing practice of low yield mixed varieties naturally produced by the farmers.

GAP training packages on land preparation, cultivation, harvesting and post-harvest handling are another key intervention strategy taken to guide, educate the farmer and promote production for best practices. The training is being carried out on demonstration farms.

Farmers improve their business and farm management skills through participation in Farmer Business Schools (FBS) training.

Tube well technology is another intervention area that is of great opportunity to the farmers as this enables them to double their income by producing paddy also during the dry season. This reduces farmers dependence on rainfall for production.

## Contact

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## Implementing Partners

NSRIC facilitates GAP trainings using the members of the Agricultural Graduates Association of Nigeria. Onyx Rice Mill is the off-taker for the paddy produced.