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Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)

Multi-Actor Partnerships

Challenges of the rice value chain

Rice is one of the most important staple foods in Africa. Population growth, urbanization and changes in consumer behavior increase demand. Smallholder farmers on an acreage of less than one hectare produce 90% of all locally cultivated rice, which does not meet the continent's demand for rice. Due to lack of knowledge of modern farming techniques, limited access to high-quality seeds, fertilisers and crop protection practices, average yields in Sub-Saharan Africa are the lowest in the world. Necessary infrastructure for efficient storage, transport is also often not existent, the scale of processing facilities too small in order to be competitive in the global market.

Overall approach

The Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) applies a value chain approach to assist national rice industries in Africa, by putting special emphasis on cooperation with local partners. Smallholder rice farmers receive trainings to increase their incomes and to supply the whole region with high-quality rice. Local processing and marketing companies benefit from a reliable supply of high-quality rice, as they enter into constant supply relationships with smallholders. Local businesses gain better access to financial services, as national policies create more favourable framework conditions for the production of and the trade with rice. With this, a stable value chain is developed, connecting input suppliers, rice farmers, millers and distributors.



Based on SDG 17 and the *Partnership for the Goals*, CARI seeks to further strengthen and expand partnerships with stakeholders in rice development in Africa during the second phase of the program.

Objectives of MAP and first steps

The intention of CARI's multi-actor partnership (MAP) concept is to create synergies and coordinate support to actors in the rice value chain in the respective countries, as well as to align regional initiatives and policies. The 6th CARI steering committee held in November 2017 was preceded by a MAP workshop being an integral part of the future steering concept to foster inclusiveness and collaboration at national and regional level.

For the kick-off meeting, CARI brought representatives from AfDB, AGRA, BMGF, CARD, GIZ, JAKF, JICA, and Kilimo Trust among others together in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The aim of the meeting was to connect, learn about activities of participating organizations (e.g. implementation approach) and to identify possible fields of cooperation. This will allow strategizing on a regional level for the ECOWAS as well as for the EAC region, and at national levels in an effort to mutually support and avoid duplication without leaving large gaps in the future.



Photo left: Rice field © GIZ

Photo right: First multi-actor partnership meeting 2017 © GIZ





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Photo left: Identification of topic priorities © GIZ

Photo right: Policy World Café © GIZ

Identification of areas for collaboration

By applying the World Café method, participants exchanged on activities and experiences on the topics of policy, access to finance, framework conditions of contract farming and out-grower schemes, and monitoring and evaluation. Areas for collaboration and further exchange have been identified on the following issues:

Policy at national and regional level

- Implementation of seed policies at national level
- Policy harmonization regarding inputs (e.g. seeds and fertilizer)
- Capacity building regarding quality and food safety standards
- Harmonization of common export tariffs
- Elimination of nuisance tariffs
- Certification system for machinery
- Expansion of and collaboration among different networks
- Knowledge exchange and mutual learning for scaling up of national, regional and international good practices
- Supporting the value chain and private sector

Access to Finance

- Capacity building for bankers (agricultural literacy) and farmers (financial literacy)

- Tailored financial products according to financial needs of different stakeholders of the value chain
- Support of cooperatives in business model development
- Subsidy scheme for banks by governments
- Establishment of guarantee fund and risk sharing facilities
- Establishment of a credit bureau for increase of transparency in the financial sector

Contract Farming; out-grower schemes

- Partnerships along the value chain regarding information, finance, insurance and mechanization
- Strengthening private sector involvement and collaboration on various activities (e.g. Good Agricultural Practices, Good Post-Harvest Handling)
- Exchange and mutual learning from best practices

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Joint reporting framework and common indicators
- Collaboration on design and implementation of impact assessments
- Realisation of baseline studies

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