



CARD UPDATE

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G1 Countries

All twelve First Group Countries have completed their first Working Week which turned out an extremely useful session in analyzing gaps and identifying priority interventions. The outcome revealed that many of G1 Countries are in need of the infrastructure and subsidies/provisions along the value chain.

(chart available at www.riceforafrica.org/downloads/Meetings/sc5/SIEM_Output_List.pdf). The Working Week reports were presented and highly appreciated at the 5th Steering Committee Meeting held in February.

G1 Countries will now start working on operationalizing their priority projects. CARD Secretariat is organising video/telephone conferences to brief Task Force members on the 2nd Working Week where

they are expected to develop project concept notes in preparation for lobbying the government officials, development partners and private sectors and increasing the number of rice projects in the country.

G2 Countries

Following Togo's successful case in November 2010, Benin, Burkina Faso and Rwanda are expected to launch their NRDS during Apr-Jun 2011. As the front runners among G2 Countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Togo have started preparation for their first Working Week where gaps and priorities will be highlighted. CARD Secretariat has been organising video/telephone conferences with the Task Forces to brief on the objectives and expected outcome of Working Week.

Other G2 countries have been working on the formulation of NRDS. CARD Secretariat officials/consultants have been sent to CAR, the Gambia, Liberia and Zambia to work with Task Forces. Another consultant's visit is scheduled for DRC in April/May.

5th SC Meeting

CARD 5th Steering Committee Meeting was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 23 to 24 February 2011 attended by AGRA, AfricaRice, AfDB, AGRA, FAO, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS and World Bank, USAID as an observer and Dr Vo Tong Xuan, Tao Tao University from Vietnam as a guest speaker for the South-South Cooperation discussion.

The Meeting was opened by Sierra Leon Hon Vice President and then Hon Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Food Security, assured the country's strong high-level commitment to the rice development.

The agenda included updates on CARD initiative in 2010, especially, G1, G2 and SC Members and the Initiative's work plan for 2011. It was suggested that CARD Initiative strengthen partnership with donors from newly emerging countries as well as with private sectors. The Meeting was followed by a workshop 'Cooperation in rice sector development in Mano River Union countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) where possible regional partnership was explored. (www.riceforafrica.org/meetings/sc/sc5 for meeting documents)



FAO Regional Workshops

FAO Regional Workshop on rice and aquaculture was held in Senegal (Dec 2010) and in Zambia (Feb 2011). All CARD G1 and G2 Countries attended and shared the



progress of their NRDS implementation and formulation. The participants tried to identify common challenges in the aim of developing regional strategies and projects.



Forthcoming Event

4th General Meeting – Please would everyone put in their calendar 'CARD 4th General Meeting' on **8 & 9 November 2011** in Kampala, Uganda. Its general objective is to share the progress made by all the CARD stakeholders since the previous Meeting in Tanzania and to discuss the way forward of the Initiative. The 6th Steering Committee Meeting, an excursion and a seminar will be organized before/after the General Meeting. Details will follow.

World Bank Rural Days

The CARD Secretariat attended the World Bank Rural Days held in Washington USA, 22 – 24 March. Mr Cheikh Sourang of IFAD and current Chair of the CARD SC was a panel at a half day session on scaling-up, together with Ms Christine Cornelius, former CARD Focal Point. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce CARD Initiative to a wider audience on the rice development in Africa, including the World Bank, IFAD, USAID and FAO. It was also an opportunity to Mr Michael Morris, the new CARD Focal Point at the World Bank.

