

About WARDA – The Africa Rice Center

WARDA – The Africa Rice Center is an autonomous intergovernmental agricultural research association of African member states and one of the 16 international agricultural research centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

It’s mission is “to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa, through research, development and partnership activities aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice sector in ways that ensure the sustainability of the farming environment.”

The *modus operandi* of WARDA is partnership at all levels. WARDA’s research and development activities are conducted in collaboration with various stakeholders—primarily the national agricultural research systems (NARS), academic institutions, advanced research institutions, farmers’ organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors—for the benefit of African farmers, mostly small-scale producers, as well as the millions of African families for whom rice means food.

The development of the ‘New Rice(s) for Africa,’ or NERICA(s), for which WARDA was conferred the CGIAR King Baudouin Award, is bringing hope to millions of poor people in Africa. This scientific breakthrough of crossing African with Asian rice species has helped to shape the Center’s future direction, extending its horizon beyond West and Central Africa into Eastern and Southern Africa. The creation of NERICA rice and its expected contribution to food security and income generation in Sub-Saharan Africa are in harmony with the spirit and sustainable-development aspirations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Tokyo International Conference on Africa’s Development (TICAD), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

WARDA hosts four networks and consortia—the African Rice Initiative (ARI), the Inland Valley Consortium (IVC), the International Network for Genetic Evaluation of Rice in Africa (INGER-Africa), and the West and Central Africa Rice Research and Development Network (ROCARIZ)—all charged with ensuring the widespread and rapid dissemination, adoption and diffusion of new rice cultivars across the various rice ecologies found in Africa.

WARDA has its headquarters in Côte d’Ivoire and three regional research stations—one covering the Sahel and located near St-Louis, Senegal, one at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria, and one at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) research station at Samanko near Bamako, Mali.

For more information, please visit www.warda.org

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About the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) was founded in 1971 as a global endeavor of cooperation and goodwill. The CGIAR’s mission is to contribute to food security and poverty eradication in developing countries through research, partnership, capacity building and policy support, promoting sustainable agricultural development based on the environmentally sound management of natural resources. The CGIAR works to help ensure food security for the twenty-first century through its network of 16 international and autonomous research centers, including WARDA. Together, the centers conduct research on crops, livestock, fisheries and forests, develop policy initiatives, strengthen national agricultural organizations, and promote sustainable resource management practices that help provide people world-wide with better livelihoods.

The CGIAR works in partnership with national governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and private industry. The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sponsor the CGIAR. The CGIAR’s over 50 members include developing and developed countries, private foundations, and international and regional organizations. Developing world participation has doubled in recent years. All members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Development Assistance Committee belong to the CGIAR.

The CGIAR is actively planning for the world’s food needs well into the twenty-first century. It will continue to do so with its mission always in mind and with its constant allegiance to scientific excellence.

CGIAR Centers

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| CIAT | Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (Cali, Colombia) |
| CIFOR | Center for International Forestry Research (Bogor, Indonesia) |
| CIMMYT | Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (Mexico, DF, Mexico) |
| CIP | Centro Internacional de la Papa (Lima, Peru) |
| ICARDA | International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Aleppo, Syria) |
| ICLARM | WorldFish Center (Penang, Malaysia) |
| ICRAF | World Agroforestry Centre (Nairobi, Kenya) |
| ICRISAT | International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Patancheru, India) |
| IFPRI | International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington, DC, USA) |
| IITA | International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (Ibadan, Nigeria) |
| ILRI | International Livestock Research Institute (Nairobi, Kenya) |
| IPGRI | International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (Rome, Italy) |
| IRRI | International Rice Research Institute (Los Baños, Philippines) |
| ISNAR | International Service for National Agricultural Research (The Hague, Netherlands) |
| IWMI | International Water Management Institute (Colombo, Sri Lanka) |
| WARDA | The Africa Rice Center (Bouaké, Côte d’Ivoire) |

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