

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)

RESOLUTIONS OF AFRICA RICE CENTER'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

28th Ordinary Session of Africa Rice Center Council of Ministers
Banjul, The Gambia
23 September 2011

The Africa Rice Center Council of Ministers

During its meeting of September 23, 2011 in Banjul, The Gambia, on the occasion of the 28th Ordinary Session of Africa Rice Center Council of Ministers

After having listened to the communications by Africa Rice Center Director General and his main collaborators,

After having noted satisfactorily the different corporate achievements of Africa Rice Center and the huge challenges member States are faced with in the development of African rice

After having examined the recommendations of the National Experts Committee and deliberated upon the progress made by rice research and development in Africa,

Is very delighted about the quality of the annual activity reports submitted by the Africa Rice Center and about the entire research work carried out by the Center as well as its increased collaboration with NARS partners

Adopts the following resolutions:

Resolution 1: Geographical expansion of the Africa Rice Center

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the wide dissemination and adoption on our continent of international public goods generated by Africa Rice Center
- Considering the recent joining of Madagascar which is among the main countries that produce and consume rice, which confirms the trust of African States in the Africa Rice Center,

Welcomes and encourages the membership process of an increasing number of African States to the Africa Rice Center and urges the Management to continue its advocacy efforts to convince other countries benefitting from the results to join.

Resolution 2: Increase in budget and in the number of days of financial reserves

The Council of Ministers,

- Given the tremendous advocacy efforts in favor of AfricaRice made by the Director General, the Board of Trustees and the Africa Rice Center staff,
- Given the strengthened African States and donors' trust in the Center,
- Given the Center's remarkable results in terms of resource mobilization from bilateral and multilateral donors translated into the continuous increase in the Center's budget and the number of financial reserve days,

Congratulates the AfricaRice Management and encourages the management to continue its efforts in that regard.

Resolution 3: Recovery of Member State Contributions

The Council of Ministers,

- Given the efforts made by the Africa Rice Center Management to recover the Member State contributions,

- Considering the efforts made by the Member State to pay off their contributions,
- Considering that the Member State contributions constitute a critical tool for the Center ownership by African States,
- Invite non-member countries that are benefiting from AfricaRice research and development activities to join and pay their contributions,

Congratulates Member States that have paid off their contributions and urges all Member States to increase their support to the Africa Rice Center considering the strategic role of rice and rice production in African economies,

Urges the DG to continue his tour and advocacy in Member States.

Resolution 4: Strategic partnership with sub-regional and regional institutions

The Council of Ministers,

- Taking note of the increasing process of sub-regional and regional integration through the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is the agricultural framework under the New partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) of the African Union (AU) and its implementation through sub-regional and regional agricultural policies and investment programmes,
- Taking note of the conclusions of the Africa Rice Congress held in 2010 in Mali where the Experts requested a strong and sustainable commitment for scientific innovation and partnerships which will enable the continent to realize its tremendous potential in rice production and to do away with reliance on imports,
- Taking note of the need to develop and maintain a critical mass of a highly trained research personnel in the NARS, it is suggested that AfricaRice and Member States work through regional bodies (ECOWAS, ASARECA, AU, CEMAC, SADC, CORAF/WE CARD, etc.) to develop guidelines and recommendations to realize this objective

Congratulates the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Africa Rice Center and UEMOA in 2010, AfricaRice and AU in 2011, and the efficiency of the collaboration with sub-regional and regional institutions responsible for African integration such as ECOWAS and CILSS.

Encourages the Africa Rice Center to develop and strengthen its collaboration with other Regional Economic Communities in Africa.

Resolution 5: Support quality seed provision

The Council of Ministers,

- Given the persistent lack of improved rice seed in Africa, and the strong demand for quality seed including NERICA varieties,
 - Congratulates the involvement of the Africa Rice Center in breeder and foundation seed production in collaboration with NARS partners
 - Urges the Africa Rice Center to continue to support Member States in the production of seeds as well as in the implementation and harmonization process of seed legislation at the regional level.

Resolution 6: Consortium of CGIAR Centers

The Council of Ministers,

- Taking note of the reform process within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research,

Congratulates AfricaRice for taking leadership in the implementation of the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) in Africa and is delighted with the conservation of the AfricaRice identity as an intergovernmental association and a CGIAR Center, and urges a consolidation of the AfricaRice as a Center of Excellence for Research and Development in Africa.

Resolution 7: Center's Strategic Plan

The Council of Ministers,

- Given that the Strategic Plan for the 2011 – 2020 period was approved by the Board of Trustees,
- Given the strategic role of rice for food security and poverty alleviation in Africa and the low rice self-sufficiency rate,
- Taking note with satisfaction the programmes and the efforts in boosting rice production in several Member States,
- Considering that AfricaRice as an Association of Member States is the right institution to coordinate and to ensure its implementation in close collaboration

with national agricultural research systems, research efforts for the development of the rice value chain in Africa,

- Given the strategic role of the private sector in the sustainable development of the rice sector,
 - Reiterates the need for Member States to combine their efforts to reduce significantly their reliance on rice imports
 - Demand the Director General to propose as soon as possible an operational plan and to do his best for its successful implementation in collaboration with NARS
 - Approved the Strategic Plan of the Center for the 2011-2020 period

Resolution 8: Return to the Center's headquarters in Côte d'Ivoire

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the existence of a study presently underway at the Board level on the Center's return to Côte d'Ivoire,
- Considering the consultation initiated with the Ivorian authorities on the conditions for the Centre's return to Côte d'Ivoire,

Reaffirms that AfricaRice maintain its headquarters in Côte d'Ivoire, and urges the Director General to examine, with the Ivorian authorities, a calendar for the return to Côte d'Ivoire.

Seizes this opportunity to thank the people and government of Benin for hosting AfricaRice.

Resolution 9: International visibility of the Center

The Council of Ministers,

Noting satisfactorily the good international reputation of the Africa Rice Center marked by several mentions of the Center and its technologies in the press and international media,

Congratulates the Director General of the Africa Rice Center and his staff for the efforts made to increase the Center's international visibility.

Urges AfricaRice to increase its visibility especially in Central, Eastern and Southern African regions.

Resolution 10: Rotation of Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the responsibilities carried out by the country that ensures the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers in terms of governance and policy support to the Africa Rice Center,

Considering the important role of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers as spokesperson for the Member States,

Approves the principle of rotation of Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers for the period 2011-2013 with the Central Africa region designating a country among themselves to host the 2013 COM meeting,

In consultation with the Central Africa region, the Republic of Chad has been designated to Chair the Council of Ministers and to host the 29th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in 2013.

Special Resolution: Establishing a prize for the best rice farmer by the President of the Republic of The Gambia

The Council of Ministers expresses its sincere thanks to His Excellency Sheikh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of The Gambia for his initiative to promote rice production in Africa by instituting a prize for the best rice farmer;

Recommends that the Director General of AfricaRice in close collaboration with the chairperson of NEC and the Director General of NARI to study the modalities and implement the initiative in collaboration with NARS.

Motion of Congratulations to the Director General and staff of AfricaRice

Given the remarkable achievements made by the AfricaRice Director General and his staff since he took office and the excellent results obtained by the Center,

Noting satisfactorily the outstanding rating of AfricaRice by the World Bank marked by several mentions of the Center and its technologies in the press and international media,

The Council of Ministers,

Congratulates the Director General, Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck and his staff for the efforts made to increase the Center's international relevance and visibility.

Vote of Thanks to His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH, President of the Republic of The Gambia and the People of The Gambia

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the excellent facilities availed to the organizers by His Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia and his Government,

Considering the successful organization of the 28th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers,

Expresses its sincere gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia and to the Gambian people for the warm and brotherly welcome extended to all participants,

Congratulates His Excellency for chairing the Council of Minister for the past two years and for the successful hosting of the 28th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

Done in Banjul, on 23rd September, 2011

The Council of Ministers,