

Rice Sector Development Program (RSD)

Making the rice sector development hubs (rice hubs) work for smallholders and entrepreneurs: Retooling the rice hub concept

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In 2015, the total number of Hubs stabilized at 74 - representing various agro-ecological zones in 25 countries. Most countries have selected 2-3 rice hubs, and a few have 4 and above. During 2015 the AfricaRice Task Forces (TF) had activities in 63 of the 74. In the remaining 11 hubs there were no activities due to various reasons (security threats, remote location, funding problems). In two thirds of the hubs more than one Task Force was operating and collaboration between Task Forces in these hubs is intensifying throughout the year.

During the 2016 Science Week the idea was introduced to make a difference between 'core' hubs and 'satellite' hubs. Core hubs:

- (i) Are based in a major rice producing and/or importing country;
- (ii) Benefit from strong government commitment to rice sector development;
- (iii) Benefit from the presence of AfricaRice and/or national centers of specialization on rice;
- (iv) Have adequate funding support from restricted projects;
- (v) Have clear market potential for trade in locally produced / domestic rice;
- (vi) Benefit from strong interest of private sector investment and development partners;
- (vii) Demonstrates synergy and complementarity between and among the Africa-wide rice Task Forces (TFs), and strong linkages with scaling partners;
- (viii) Uses functional multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (IPs) in the rice value chain of the rice hubs to generate/test and enhance the dissemination of technologies and innovations.

The RICE CRP has already identified six focus countries with key action sites (core hubs) in Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania. Core rice hubs will also be established in countries where there is strong bilateral project support eg. in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea and Uganda, to name a few. The total number of core rice hubs will probably be around 15-20. Experiences, results, and insights from the core rice hubs will be transferred to satellite rice hubs through various communication channels such as learning visits, demonstrations, and digital agriculture tools.

A results-based framework (Annex 1) was developed for the core rice hubs by a committee at AfricaRice. This framework forms the first basis of indicators to be collected in the core rice hubs as of 2017. The full set of indicators to be monitored by AfricaRice and partners *must include the set of about 20 common indicators that will be collected at all key RICE action sites*. These indicators will be collected through periodic (probably 3-year intervals) household surveys. Certain biophysical indicators will be tracked using proxy indicators derived from these surveys. For example, the number of irrigation applications, together with annual rainfall, will serve as proxy for water use efficiency.

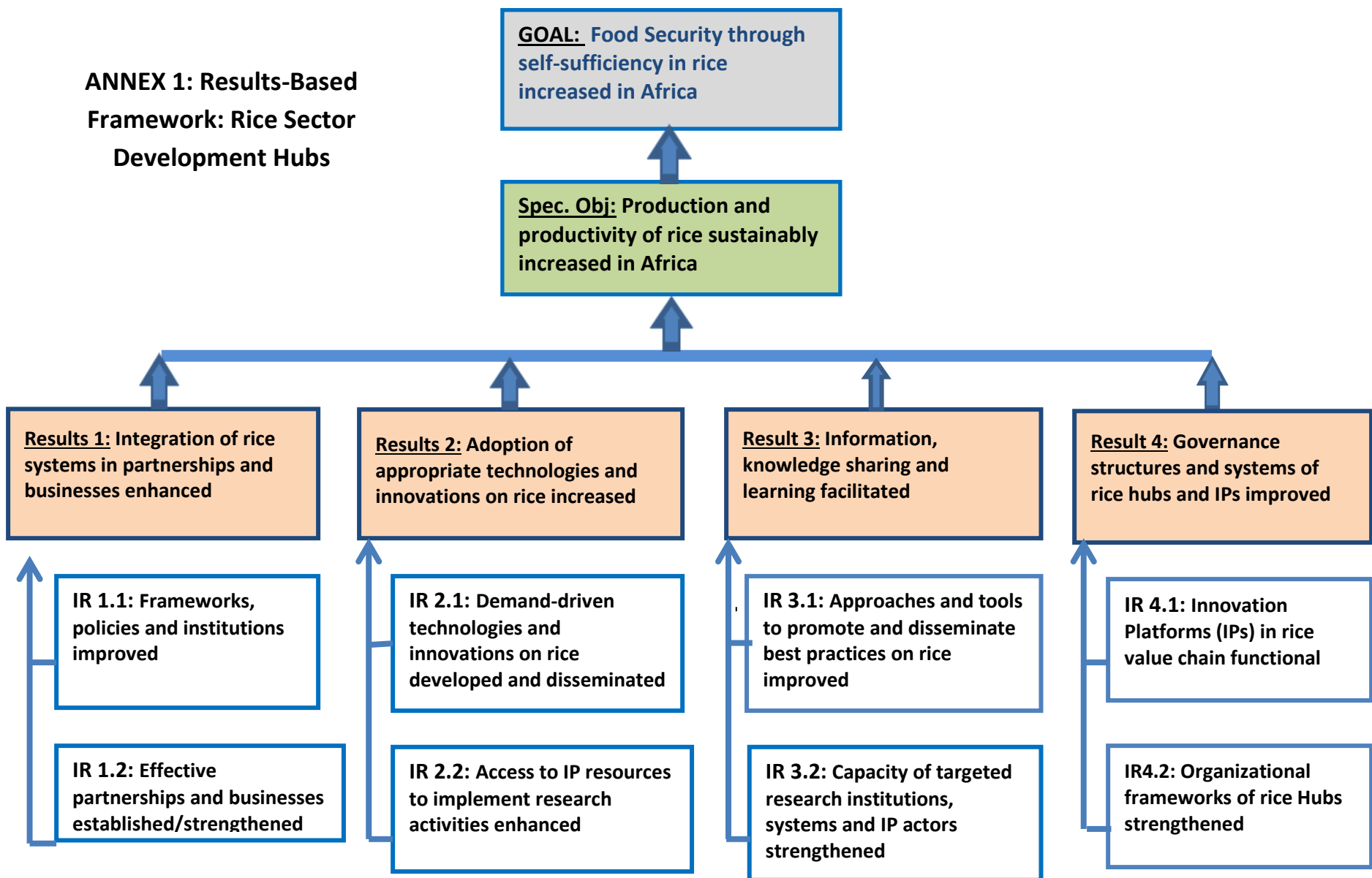
Certain *key* indicators will be collected with a higher frequency (eg. seasonal, or annual), using simple surveys and questionnaires. Proxy indicators derived from surveys will be supported by research that links

such indicators to actual biophysical measurements carried out in the research phases of product development (at action sites and/or experimental stations).

In addition, each action site may have additional indicators that are project- and site-specific. For example, certain projects and/or sites may have a specific objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or the use of pesticides, and more detailed indicators will be collected.

AfricaRice will work with IRRI and other RICE CRP partners to identify the minimum set of outcome indicators and data collection methods and tools that will be used across the RICE CRP, and set aspirational targets, at each Core Hub, together with its local partners.

ANNEX 1: Results-Based Framework: Rice Sector Development Hubs



Result Based Framework: Matrix of Performance Indicators

No	Results and Performance Indicators	Performance Indicators	Indicator Type
1	GOAL: Increased Food Security in Africa through self-sufficiency in rice	<u>Impact Ind 1</u> : Prevalence of poverty: Percent of people living on less than \$1.25/day	Impact
2		<u>Impact Ind 2</u> : Percent change in rural household incomes	Impact
3	Specific Objective: Rice Production and Productivity increased	<u>G.O Ind. 1</u> : % change in yield per hectare of targeted crop - Rice	Impact
4		<u>G.O Ind. 2</u> : % change in gross margin per unit of land cultivated	Impact
5		<u>G.O Ind. 3</u> : Number of hectares under improved technology and management practices for rice	Outcome
6	Results 1: Integration of rice systems in partnerships and businesses enhanced	1.1: Number of functional partnerships and businesses (<i>disaggregated by type</i>)	Outcome
7		1.2: Number of champions of change created on IPs at national level	Outcome
		1.3: Level of satisfaction of stakeholder actors (<i>disaggregated by trust, confidence, social capital</i>)	Outcome
9	Results 2: Adoption of appropriate technologies and innovations on rice increased	2.1: Number of appropriate technologies and innovations tested and disseminated	Output
10		2.2: Number of technologies and innovations adopted (<i>disaggregated by type</i>)	Output
11		2.3: Number of individual IP actors adopting technologies and innovations	Outcome
12		2.4: Number and type of business models promoted	Output
13		2.5: Number of networks/agreements among IP actors facilitated	Output
14		2.6: Rice value chain stakeholders/actors on the IPs (<i>disaggregated by gender</i>)	Output
15		2.7: Key research priorities selected with IP actors	Output
16		2.8: Equitable access to funds by IP actors improved	Outcome
17	Result 3: Information, knowledge sharing and learning facilitated	3.1: No. of information communications tools promoted and shared (<i>disaggregated by type</i>)	Output
18		3.2: No. of individual beneficiaries reached (<i>disaggregated by gender</i>)	Outcome

No	Results and Performance Indicators	Performance Indicators	Indicator Type
19		3.3: Level of competence and skills enhancement of IP actors	Outcome
21	Result 4: Governance structures and systems of rice hubs and IPs improved	4.1: Level of recommended Governance structures in place	Outcome
22		4.2: No. of hubs with well-defined leadership, visions and outcomes	Outcome
23		4.3: No. of IPs with good governance guides/manuals/procedures	Outcome
24		4.4: No. of individual IP members accessing resources	Outcome
26		4.5: No. of Innovation Platforms functional	Outcome
26		4.6: No. of hub framework agreements signed between and among IP actors	Output

¹ Functionality includes research & development activities, outputs, outcomes and impact on beneficiaries through the multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (IPs) in the rice hubs

² Governance addresses quality of leadership, group cohesiveness and performance, transparency and accountability to beneficiaries, and sustainability