

**Harvest and postharvest technologies**

- The partnership activities have aimed at enhancing the quality and marketability of locally produced rice through improved harvest and postharvest technologies.
- Local manufacturers have been trained to fabricate agricultural machinery in order to reduce drudgery and dependence on equipment imported from outside Africa.
- With the help of AfricaRice and IRAD, a quality-processing center was established to enhance quality along the whole rice value chain from seed through milling, sorting, and packaging to marketing.
- Quality rice as well as rice bran and other by-products are sold to both wholesalers and retailers
- The production of rice-based products is already adding value to broken rice and providing income to women and supermarkets in Cameroon.
- Protocols and recipes for several rice-based products and by-products were produced.

**Rice statistics**

- Accurate and reliable rice statistics database were established in Cameroon and IRAD staff were trained in nationally representative rice statistics survey methodologies

**Policy advice**

- Cameroon has contributed to the development of policies resulting in key investments made by farmers, governments, the private sector and the donor community in sub-Saharan Africa, following the 2007–2008 global food crisis.
- The third Africa Rice Congress, which was organized by AfricaRice and FAO in collaboration with IRAD in 2013 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, issued a clarion call to increase investments in Africa's rice sector as well as in rice-related research, extension and capacity building so that the continent can realize its rice promise.

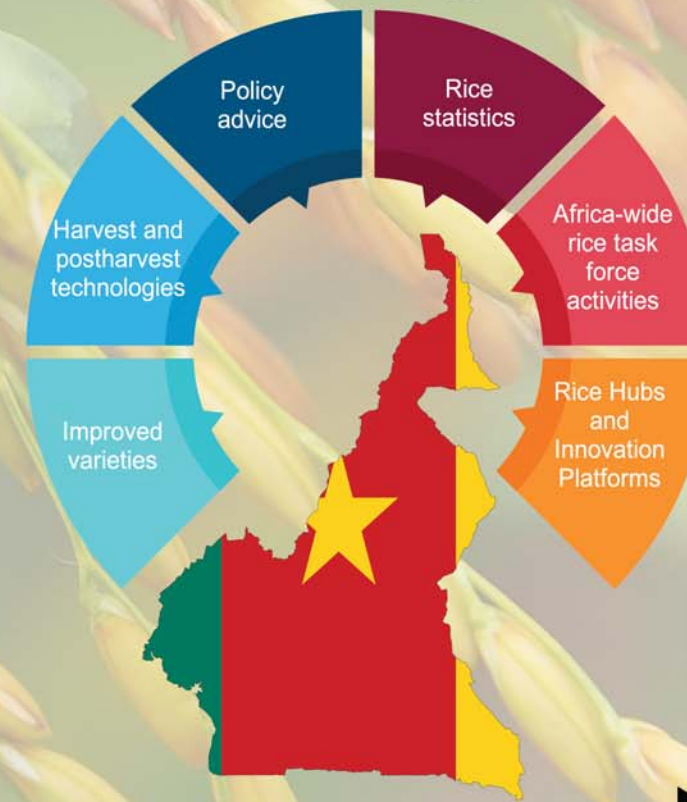
**Africa-wide rice task force activities**

- Cameroon has been an active member and benefited from the activities and funding of the six Africa-wide Rice Task Forces coordinated by AfricaRice – Breeding, Agronomy, Gender, Mechanization, Policy, and Processing & Value Addition.
- The Task Forces have provided a unique opportunity for Cameroon's researchers to interact and partner with their counterparts from other AfricaRice member countries.
- Funds contributed to Cameroon through the Task Forces have complemented government allocations significantly and ensured the continuation of research and the training of scientists and value chain actors.

**Rice Hubs and Innovation Platforms**

- Three rice sector development hubs were identified by IRAD, Cameroon – Ndop (Lowland (Upland and Irrigated), Lagdo (Irrigated and Upland), and Mbam (Upland).
- The rice hubs serve as field laboratories where research outputs and products are being tested, adapted and integrated – with feedback provided to researchers on technology performance.

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## Cameroon-AfricaRice Partnership

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- ▶ Cameroon joined AfricaRice (ex-WARDA) in 1991.
- ▶ The Institut de recherche agricole pour le développement (IRAD) is one of the most important national partners of AfricaRice.
- ▶ As a member country, Cameroon takes part in statutory meetings of the AfricaRice Council of Ministers, which is the Center's highest governing body.
- ▶ Cameroon is also a member of the AfricaRice National Experts Committee.

“Rice is global and it is big business. Rice is life in Africa.”  
 -- Dr Harold Roy-Macauley,  
 AfricaRice Director General



### Contributions by AfricaRice to Cameroon

- ▶ Between 2009 and 2016, Cameroon has benefited from 11 donor-funded projects, coordinated by AfricaRice.
- ▶ AfricaRice, in partnership with IRAD, has contributed to boosting Cameroon's rice sector in terms of policy and technical advice, improved seed, cropping practices and processing technologies, capacity development and support to rice value chain development.

### Capacity strengthening

- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of rice stakeholders throughout the value chain is a major priority of the collaboration. Between 2009 and 2016, 1 PhD and 6 MSc scholars from Cameroon were trained. About 128 researchers and value chain actors have participated in group training workshops.
- ▶ The training provided by AfricaRice has strengthened Cameroon's capacity for rice research and development.

### IMPORTANCE OF RICE IN CAMEROON

In Cameroon, rice occupies a strategic place in the agricultural sector because of its growing importance in national consumption. The country is endowed with large areas of arable land, abundant water resources, and favorable agroclimatic conditions that are conducive to rice production.

Recognizing its agribusiness potential, and in response to the food crisis that severely affected Cameroon in 2008, the government has been taking measures to boost the rice sector, strengthening the country's rural infrastructure such as irrigation, milling and processing facilities, and farm-to-market roads.

It has also revamped government-owned corporations, such as the Company for the Expansion and Modernization of Rice in Yagoua (SEMRY) in Far North province and the Upper Nun Valley Development Authority (UNVDA) in the Northwest province.

In 2009, the government launched the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS), which seeks to improve the productivity and competitiveness of local rice. It has four objectives: (i) support for the acquisition of agricultural inputs; (ii) basic planning of irrigable areas and the rehabilitation of infrastructure and agricultural equipment; (iii) support to structuring and professionalizing producers; and (iv) support for processing and marketing of rice.

Cameroon has five agro-ecological zones which are all suitable for rice production. Over the period 2011-2016, Cameroon produced an average of 114,333 t of milled rice per year on 150,000 ha, with an annual growth rate of 4.13%. However, despite the enormous potential for producing rice in the country, Cameroon imports more than 300,000 tons of milled rice per year. Its rice self-sufficiency ratio has been less than 20%, according to FAO.

In line with its strategy to boost rice production, Cameroon has undertaken a series of research for development activities in partnership with AfricaRice. AfricaRice and IRAD have been collaborating to develop improved rice varieties and technologies to increase rice productivity in the region.

Rice Statistics for Selected Indicators					
Source: <a href="https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/advQuery">https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/advQuery</a> (accessed May 2017)					
Indicator	2015	2016	2017	Average 2011-2016	Annual growth rate, 2011-2016 (%)
Paddy production (t)	203,000	183,000	183,000	181,667	4.18
Area (ha)	189,000	140,000	140,000	150,000	3.96
Yield (t/ha)	1.07	1.31	1.31	1.23	0.12
Consumption (t)	628,000	615,000	635,000	585,167	6.73
Import (t)	500,000	500,000	520,000	470,833	7.40

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### Cameroon-AfricaRice Partnership: Achievements and Impacts

#### Improved varieties

- With the participation of Cameroon in the African Development Bank-funded African Rice Initiative, the country was able to disseminate upland NERICA varieties over 3,835 ha between 2013 and 2014. Lowland NERICA varieties have also been widely adopted by rice farmers.
- At least 20 improved rice varieties have been released in Cameroon for use by farmers, including seven stress-tolerant rice varieties that were released in 2013 (2 drought-tolerant upland varieties and 5 iron-toxicity-tolerant lowland varieties). The newly released varieties are expected to significantly improve the yields of rice in the country.
- A study conducted in 2009 by the CGIAR's Diffusion and Impact of Improved Varieties in Africa (DIIVA) project showed that 52% of the area under rice cultivation in Cameroon is grown with improved varieties.