

“Rice is global and it is big business. Rice is life in Africa.”

Dr Harold Roy-Macauley,
AfricaRice Director General



Rice has become critical for food security and political stability throughout Africa, which has a huge potential to produce enough quality rice in a sustainable manner to feed itself and in the long run to export to other regions. Despite increases in rice production, the continent spends more than US\$ 7 billion on rice import every year.

AfricaRice – a leading pan-African organization – has been given the mandate to support the continent in developing the rice sector through research, development and partnership activities.

Unique Center: AfricaRice is a CGIAR Research Center as well as an intergovernmental

association of African member countries. Its highest governing body is the Council of Ministers. This unique governance gives AfricaRice unparalleled access to the highest levels of decision-making in African governments.

Origin and Membership:

AfricaRice was created in 1971 by 11 African countries. Today it has 28 member countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)



Location: AfricaRice headquarters is based in Côte d'Ivoire. AfricaRice staff are located in Côte d'Ivoire and also in AfricaRice research stations in Madagascar, Nigeria and Senegal and in project sites in Liberia and Uganda.

Partnerships: AfricaRice's role as a champion in partnership building has won wide recognition. It has a range of partnerships from strategic upstream research to linking with development partners to achieve impact on the ground. It uses a continent-wide taskforce mechanism to strengthen the rice R&D capacity of its national partners. It is a key partner in the CGIAR Research Program on 'Rice Agri-food Systems' with the International Rice Research Institute (lead) and other major collaborators. It also partners with advanced research institutes and Universities. It has established links with regional and sub-regional bodies and operates within the framework of development initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Coalition for African Rice Development.



Achievements by AfricaRice and its partners

Varieties

Over 200 improved rice varieties released in the last 25 years in Africa:

- New Rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties, which cover 1.7 million ha (8 million people lifted out of poverty in 16 countries)
- Climate-smart 'Advanced Rice for Africa' (ARICA) varieties
- High-yielding 'Sahel' varieties for irrigated ecologies
- Aromatic varieties: 'Orylux' series
- Hybrid rice (10-13 t/ha) with excellent grain quality (2 hybrids selected for release in Senegal).

Crop management

- 'RiceAdvice' decision-support app: Disseminated to over 19,000 farmers. Yield increase of 1 t/ha achieved.
- 'Smart-valleys' approach: Rice yield doubled in inland valleys in Benin and Togo.
- Good agricultural practices (GAPs): GAP component technologies tested by over 4000 farmers. Yield increase of 1.5 t/ha achieved.
- Mechanization options: Motorized weeders, combine harvesters, threshers developed/promoted.

Achievements by AfricaRice and its partners

Processing

- Energy-efficient GEM rice parboiling system developed, which has improved the livelihood of 2000 rural women.

Innovation platforms (IPs)

- Facilitated establishment of IPs within Rice Hubs that have been set up across Africa, where scalable products developed by AfricaRice and local innovations, are integrated across the rice value chain, and farmers are linked to marketing channels through business-focused IPs.

Knowledge sharing

- Farmer-learning videos in several African languages, training modules, manuals and e-learning courses/platform developed.

Capacity development

- AfricaRice hosts students from BSc to PhD. Of the 114 students in 2016, 36 (32%) were women.
- 4928 people (50.8% women) participated in 89 group training courses in 2016.

- New strategy developed to professionalize actors along the rice value chain, with a special focus on women and youth

Policy options

- Policy options to enhance the competitiveness of the rice value chains in Africa
- AfricaRice is leading the development of a 'Continental Investment Plan for Accelerating Rice Self-Sufficiency in Africa' (CIPRISSA)



Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)

Donors

AfricaRice sincerely thanks all the donors who have generously contributed to its success:

- AfricaRice Member States
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Belgium
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- Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)
- CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
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- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF)

For more information, visit: www.AfricaRice.org



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Profile of AfricaRice



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