

Number of partners involved in technology introduction/promotion
Participatory varietal selection (PVS) involving 3000 farmers in 10 pilot countries across Africa, led to the accelerated release of ARICA varieties.

Results at the test sites

Based on results of the continent-wide evaluation of the 2,100 lines in 170 sites, the AWBTF has nominated 18 ARICA that outperformed the best varieties cultivated in the target environments.

Success factors

ARICAs: High and stable yield and tolerant to drought, cold, iron toxicity and salinity (depending on the ecology). Orylux 6: Aromatic variety with good market potential. NERICAs: Shorter growth duration, tolerance to specific biotic and abiotic stresses, stable yield.

Recommendations

Suitable for Rainfed Lowland, Upland, Irrigated lowland, and High Elevation (depending on the varieties). It must be understood that no single improved variety combines all the useful characteristics.

List value chains suited for the technology application

Rice value chain



AfricaRice

AfricaRice is a CGIAR Research Center – part of a global research partnership for a food-secure future. It is also an intergovernmental association of African member countries.

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Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation



Brief description

Rice farmers across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) often face a range of biotic and abiotic stresses as well as differences in consumer preferences for rice. Many improved rice varieties have been released/adopted in SSA over the last decades. However, lots of farmers do not have access to new varieties that are better adapted to their growing environment and are likely to sell well.

For instance, the Advanced Rice Varieties for Africa (ARICA), which is a generic name used for a new generation of high-performing rice varieties launched by the Africa-wide Rice Breeding Task Force (AWBTF), offer great opportunities for increased productivity and access to the market for African farmers. The ARICA varieties are evaluated through rigorous procedures and backed by solid data and have been found to be well adapted to prevailing biotic and abiotic stresses and to other effects due to climate change.

ORYLUX 6 is a high-quality aromatic variety with good grain quality and taste.

The “New Rice for Africa (NERICA)” varieties, including upland NERICA and lowland NERICA-L varieties continue to bring specific benefits to African rice growers, in particular shorter growth duration and tolerance to specific biotic and abiotic stresses, while giving good yield.

Developed by

Africa Rice Centre (AfricaRice) and its partners

Location where the technology was proven

The ARICA varieties have been tested in more than 31 SSA countries through the AWBTF platform. Orylux 6 has been selected for promotion in several countries, including Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Togo, Liberia... The NERICA varieties are growing on over 1.4 million ha across SSA.