

Improved management practices

- Best-fit agricultural options (referred to as basket of good agricultural practices [GAP] and, technologies/innovations and crop management options) promoted for adoption

Postharvest technologies

- Partnership activities also aimed at enhancing the quality and marketability of locally produced rice through improved postharvest technologies.

Rice policy and impact

- Rwanda 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.
- RAB staff have actively participated in AfricaRice efforts on capacity development in the areas of impact assessment and monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL)
- Accurate and reliable rice statistics database were established in Rwanda and RAB staff were trained in nationally representative rice statistics survey methodologies.

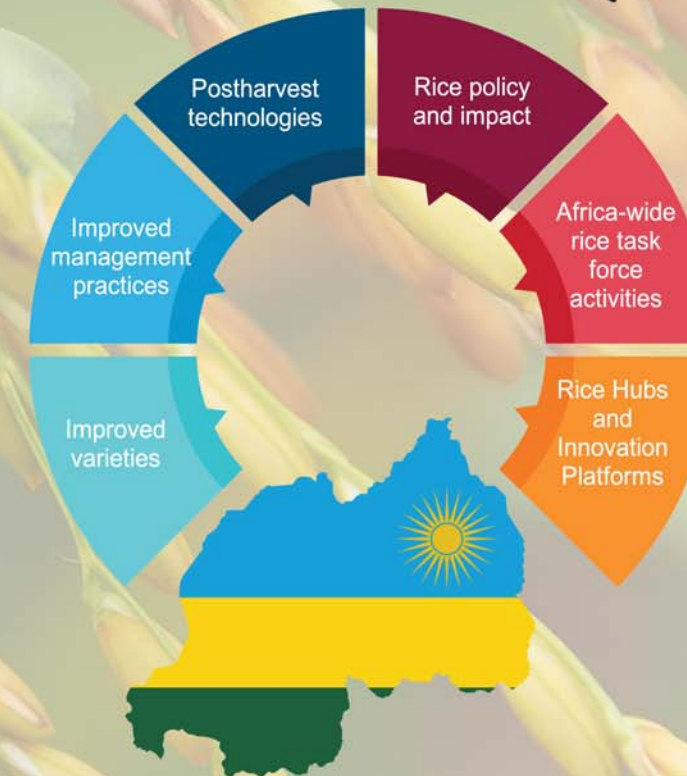
Africa-wide rice task force activities

- Rwanda 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 Rwandan researchers to interact and partner with their counterparts from other AfricaRice member countries.
- Funds contributed to Rwanda 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

- Two Rice Sector Development Hubs were identified by RAB: Gikonko and Rwamagana
- 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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Rwanda - AfricaRice Partnership

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- ▶ Rwanda became a member of AfricaRice in 2013.
- ▶ The Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) is an important national partner of AfricaRice.
- ▶ As a member country, Rwanda takes part in statutory meetings of the AfricaRice Council of Ministers, which is the Center's highest governing body.
- ▶ Rwanda 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 Rwanda

- ▶ Between 2009 and 2016, Rwanda has benefited from 12 donor-funded projects, coordinated by AfricaRice.
- ▶ AfricaRice, in partnership with RAB, has contributed to boosting Rwanda'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

- ▶ Between 2009 and 2016, 1 PhD and 2 MSc scholars were trained. Forty-one (41) Rwandans participated in group training workshops on rice breeding marker-assisted selection, hybrid rice seed production, grain quality evaluation, GAP testing, nutrient- omission trials, RiceAdvice, rice pathology and simulation modeling techniques, rice weed management, rice policy, impact assessment, data collection methods and analysis, gender research and entrepreneurship.

IMPORTANCE OF RICE IN RWANDA

Rwanda, known as the 'Land of a Thousand Hills' is a landlocked country in the Great Lakes region of East Africa. Rice production was introduced in the country in the 1960s. Since its introduction, rice has been cultivated only in irrigated schemes in the country.

The Rwandan government has recognized rice as one of the country's major staple crops and aims to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production. A compelling reason for giving priority to rice is that the crop grows well in the flood-prone valleys of Rwanda and can thus reduce pressure for land on the hillsides.

In Rwanda, rice is mainly grown by smallholder farmers through cooperative schemes. According to FAO, the prioritization of rice as a strategic food and cash crop in Rwanda has paid rich dividends: between 1997 and 2009, the area under rice production increased by 346%, production increased by 1,032% and yield increased by 60%. The rice value chain in Rwanda is relatively well organized, although some technical challenges exist in the areas of harvesting, drying, trading and milling.

With an average productivity over 5 tons per hectare per year (FAO: 2005-2010), two seasons of rice are grown on over 12,400 ha of marshlands. However, production has failed to keep pace with growing consumption demand. In 2015, around 30% of national consumption was met by imported rice.

In 2010, Rwanda was included among the second group of countries under the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) initiative. Rwanda's National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) that was conceived within the CARD framework aims to increase national yield average to 7 tons of hectare of paddy rice; expand the rice area to about 67,000 ha of marshlands; improve water supply systems keeping in mind two growing seasons per year; and reduce post-harvest losses. The other major focus areas are seed, marshland development and water management.

Rice Statistics for Selected Indicators

Indicator	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Paddy production (t) (FAO)	84,079	93,746	72,723	97,435	110,544
Area (ha) (FAO)	14,701	17,568	23,770	30,204	33,430
Yield paddy (t/ha) (FAO)	5.72	5.34	3.06	3.23	3.31
Consumption (t) – milled rice (USDA)	115,000	98,000	-	-	-
Import (t) (USDA)	65,000	40,000	-	-	-

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Rwanda-AfricaRice Partnership: Achievements and Impacts

Improved varieties

Rwanda has been one of the participating countries of IRRI-AfricaRice project on 'Stress-Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (STRASA)' from 2008 until now. It has also been a participating country of CAAS-IRRI-AfricaRice project called 'Green Super Rice for Africa and Asia (GSR)' from 2009 until now. As part of STRASA, Rwanda is the focus for research on cold stress.

Among the older AfricaRice varieties, WITA and WAB varieties have been adopted by farmers in Rwanda. Between 2009 to 2017, 19 stress-tolerant varieties developed by AfricaRice and its partners, were released in the countries. Fourteen of these varieties are high-yielding, one is tolerant to iron toxicity and four to cold stress.

As part of GSR, a high-yielding drought-tolerant variety called '08 FAN 10' with yield potential of 10.5 tons per ha was released in Rwanda in 2014.