

The Rice Sector Development program actively promotes the uptake of AfricaRice research products and methodologies and their improvement through capacity building, information exchange, links with development activities and feedback to the three research programs of AfricaRice. It helps package knowledge from research into formats that can be diffused on a wide-scale, e.g. through video or radio scripts, mobile phone technology etc. and will be disseminated through development partners, such as non-governmental organizations, extension systems and with support from private-sector companies. The program will play an active role in the Rice Sector Development Hubs, where research products will be tested and put into use through partnerships with extension projects and the private sector.

AfricaRice is positioning itself within the wider development and innovation context for Africa as advocated by the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) of the African Union-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-NEPAD) and will be contributing to Pillar IV, led by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

AfricaRice strongly believes in the importance of shared demand articulation and agenda setting to create regional and international public goods, and develop knowledge and innovation capacity within Africa. This is realized through AfricaRice partnership with NARS.

The Center is also collaborating with many advanced research institutes to complement the range of expertise needed to tackle the key research for development questions in sub-Saharan Africa, such as the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the French Research Institute for Development (IRD), the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and many Universities from USA, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, Japan, etc.

AfricaRice is an important partner in the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRISP), which seeks to be a single coordinated blueprint for global rice research that will allow researchers to address global rice challenges and to be more effective and efficient in getting impacts.

The main architects of GRISP are three CGIAR Centers – the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), AfricaRice, and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) – CIRAD, IRD, and JIRCAS which will play a strategic role with hundreds of other partners worldwide representing governments, the private sector and civil society. IRRI will lead this initiative and also oversee the activities in Asia; AfricaRice will lead the work in Africa, and CIAT in the Latin America & Caribbean region.

## Profile of AfricaRice

The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is a leading pan-African research organization with a mission to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa through research, development and partnership activities. AfricaRice is a member of the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers. It is also an autonomous intergovernmental research association of African member countries.

The Center was created in 1971 by 11 African countries. Today its membership comprises 24 countries, covering West, Central, East and North African regions, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

AfricaRice temporary headquarters is based in Cotonou, Benin; research staff are also based in Senegal, Nigeria, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire.

For more information visit: [www.AfricaRice.org](http://www.AfricaRice.org)

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# Profile of AfricaRice



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The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is a leading pan-African research organization with a mission to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa through research, development and partnership activities aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice sector while ensuring the sustainability of the farming environment.

AfricaRice was created in 1971 by 11 African states as an autonomous intergovernmental research organization. Today its membership comprises 24 countries, covering West, Central, East and North African regions, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

AfricaRice is a member of the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers. This African ownership and international support through the CGIAR make AfricaRice unique among the international agricultural research centers.

The highest governing body of the Center is the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of member states, with statutory meetings being held once every two years. Like other CGIAR-supported centers, AfricaRice has a Board of Trustees composed of nominees from member states and from the CGIAR.

The National Experts Committee composed of Directors-General of national agricultural research systems (NARS) from all member states meets ahead of the meeting of the Council of Ministers to review the Center's Strategic Plan and joint activities and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers for approval by resolution. Member states make annual contributions to the budget of the Center and since 2007 there is a renewed commitment.

AfricaRice plays a key role in advising scientists and policymakers in member states on critical rice production and marketing issues. For example, the 2008 shortage of rice supply in the international market was clearly predicted by AfricaRice and member states were alerted through the Council of Ministers. As a result, a number of countries have established national rice programs to reduce their dependence on imported rice.

In close association with its national partners, AfricaRice operates through a continent-wide taskforce mechanism based on specific broad research themes relating to rice. This mechanism was adopted to strengthen and empower the research and development capacity of national systems and to pool expertise and resources.

The Center also hosts the African Rice Initiative (ARI) and the Inland Valley Consortium (IVC). Besides activities in member states, AfricaRice has collaborative research activities with NARS in many other African countries.

In addition to the NARS, the Center's research for development (R4D) activities are conducted in collaboration with universities, advanced research institutions, farmers' organizations, non-governmental organizations and donors – for the benefit of African farmers, mostly small-scale producers, as well as the millions of Africans for whom rice means food and livelihoods (rice processors, input dealers, traders).

AfricaRice's role as a champion in partnership building has won recognition both in Africa and on the international scene. The Center and its scientists have been awarded several prizes, including awards from the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal; the CGIAR King Baudouin (Belgium) Prize; the United Nations Prize for South-South Cooperation; the World Food Prize; the Japan International Koshihikari Rice Prize; the Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers, the CGIAR Awards for Outstanding Partnership, Communication and Young Scientist; the Agricultural Merit Order of France; the UNDP South-South Cooperation Excellence Award; and other certificates of recognition from CORAF and FARA.

AfricaRice headquarters is temporarily based in Cotonou, Benin. It has four outreach stations, i.e., Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire; Ibadan, Nigeria; Saint-Louis, Senegal; and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. AfricaRice achieves its mission with about 300 staff including support staff.

## Research for Development Programs

AfricaRice research program and partnerships aim at turning the African rice sector into a thriving farm-to-plate continuum that provides the nutritional and food requirements of a young and expanding population, and breaks the chains of poverty by generating capacity for local production, processing and marketing of rice and rapidly decreasing dependence on world markets. This is expected to contribute substantially to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

AfricaRice R4D program structure was greatly simplified through the creation of highly interactive research programs:

Genetic Diversity and Improvement program covers the area 'from gene to plant', and aims to enhance genetic diversity and develop improved rice lines adapted to abiotic and biotic stresses and consumer preferences, using conventional breeding, marker-assisted selection (MAS) and profiting from farmer knowledge.

Sustainable Productivity Enhancement program covers crop and natural resource management (NRM) research related to intensification and diversification and protection of environmental services in the face of climate change, and aims to move research from plot to systems level and to introduce systems thinking in general.

Innovation Systems, Impact Assessment and Policy program aims to generate knowledge that supports the development of rice technologies, policies and institutions to improve livelihoods, nutrition and economic development, and seeks to increase the effectiveness of processes shaping the development and dissemination of sustainable technologies.

