



AfricaRice

# Investing in rice research and innovation for Africa

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) – Annual Report 2015

• **AfricaRice Headquarters, Côte d'Ivoire**

**Director General's Office in Abidjan**

01 BP 4029, Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire

Telephone: (225) 22 48 09 10

Fax: (225) 22 44 26 29

Email: AfricaRice@cgiar.org

**M'bé Research Station**

01 BP 2551, Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire

Telephone: (225) 31 63 25 78

Fax: (225) 31 63 28 00

Email: AfricaRice@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Regional Station for the Sahel, Senegal**

BP 96, Saint-Louis, Senegal

Telephone: (221) 33 962 64 41, 33 962 64 93

Fax: (221) 33 962 64 91

Email: AfricaRice-Sahel@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Regional Station for East and Southern Africa, Tanzania**

Mikocheni B/Kawe, Avocado Street

PO Box 33581, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telephone: (255) 222 780 768

Fax: (255) 222 780 768

Email: k.senthilkumar@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Nigeria Country Office**

c/o IITA, PMB 5320, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Telephone: (234) 80 55 05 59 51, 80 34 03 52 81

Fax: (44) 20 87 11 37 86

Email: f.nwilene@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Benin Country Office**

01 BP 2031, Cotonou, Benin

Telephone: (229) 64 18 13 13, 64 18 14 14

Fax: (229) 64 22 78 09

Email: a.agboh-noameshie@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Madagascar Country Office**

c/o FOFIFA, BP 1690, Ampandrianomby, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Telephone: (261) 34 14 950 26

Email: m.sie@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Coordinating Office, Liberia**

c/o CARI Station, Suakoko, Bong County, Liberia

Telephone: (231) 880 946 266, 770 750 547

Email: i.akintayo@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Coordinating Office, Sierra Leone**

c/o SLARI, PMB 736, Tower Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Telephone: (232) 99 72 71 09

Email: o.j.ajayi@cgiar.org

• **AfricaRice Coordinating Office, Ghana**

c/o IFDC Ghana, Gumani CRS Premises

PO Box ER 542, Tamale, Ghana

Telephone: (233) 372 028 220

Email: b.cisse@cgiar.org

© **Copyright Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) 2016**

AfricaRice encourages fair use of this material. Proper citation is requested. The designations used in the presentation of materials in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever by the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

**Citation:**

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice). 2016. *Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) Annual Report 2015: Investing in rice research and innovation for Africa*. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: 32 pp.

**ISBN:**

Print 978-92-9113-378-9

PDF 978-92-9113-379-6

**Writing and editing:**

Green Ink ([www.greenink.co.uk](http://www.greenink.co.uk))

**Printing:**

Pragati Offset Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, India

**Photo credits:**

Guy Manners (Green Ink): page 6; Klaus Wohlmann (GIZ): page 9. All other pictures are by staff members of Africa Rice Center, and networks and consortia convened by the Center.

*Cover:* Assessing trials in a screen-house during a field day, AfricaRice Senegal station, Ndiaye.

### Kick-starting mechanization communities of practice

The Africa-wide Rice Mechanization Task Force brings together 28 mechanization ‘champions’ representing both public and private sectors from 18 African countries.<sup>1</sup>

Under the European Union–funded project ‘South–South collaboration on rice mechanization in Africa’, the task force conducted an inventory survey of agronomic and postharvest equipment in the rice-sector development hubs, using in-country experts with back-stopping from AfricaRice. This eventually fed into a mechanization needs assessment presented at the task force’s second meeting in February 2015 and forms the basis for proposing machines to fill the technology gaps in the hubs.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) established an online consultation to establish a mechanization platform for the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). The platform-cum-community

of practice now comprises 250 members in the form of an ‘open’ intercontinental public–private partnership (PPP) on agricultural mechanization.

Supported by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and hosted by FARA, the PPP brings together mechanization stakeholders in Africa with counterparts in Asia and Latin America. It also provides a valuable link for the members of the mechanization task force.

These two communities of practice (the task force and the PPP) form the lasting legacy of the project, which ended in mid-2015; they will continue to support mechanization stakeholders on the continent for years to come.

#### Contacts:

Olupomi Ajayi, formerly CARD project coordinator <[o.j.ajayi@cgiar.org](mailto:o.j.ajayi@cgiar.org)>

Jean Moreira, Coordinator, Africa-wide Rice Mechanization Task Force <[j.moreira@cgiar.org](mailto:j.moreira@cgiar.org)>

<sup>1</sup> For more details on the mechanization task force, see ‘Double boost for rice mechanization’, *AfricaRice annual report 2013*, pages 61–62.



*The Thai power-tiller model in action, training session, Niono, Mali, May 2014*

## Research and innovation highlights

### Rehabilitating the rice sector in post-conflict countries

Liberia and Sierra Leone are still recovering from civil wars that ended in the early 2000s.

AfricaRice staff posted to these countries are helping to rebuild the rice sector within the context of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), funded by countries implementing the program, with facilitation by the World Bank and the West and Central African Council for Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF).

AfricaRice helped to purify old varieties that had become mixed up, and introduced new varieties. By the end of 2015, six lowland and four upland varieties had been successfully introduced to farmers in Liberia. While seven upland varieties were released and five lowland and mangrove-swamp varieties were cleared for release in Sierra Leone.

The Program partners — the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the World Bank, WAAPP, the West Africa Seed Program (WASP) and WECARD/CORAF — launched Initiative Ebola, which provided huge quantities of seed to the needy farmers, who had been forced to eat their own grain reserves and seed stocks to avoid starvation when large areas were quarantined.

Under the ‘Ebola Initiative’, AfricaRice facilitated the import of Certified and Foundation seed of popular upland and lowland NERICA varieties into Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from other countries in the region. The Certified seed was immediately distributed to vulnerable farmers, while the Foundation seed was used to produce Certified seed by out-growers trained by AfricaRice.

The major seed-producing cooperative in Gbedin, Nimba County, Liberia, expanded from 91 members

producing about 50 tonnes of Certified seed in 2014 to 250 farmers producing in excess of 350 t of Certified seed in 2015.

AfricaRice also introduced the Smart-valleys approach for low-cost land and water management<sup>1</sup> in Liberia. Despite interruption of the action-research by the Ebola outbreak, some farmers have adopted the system.

AfricaRice and Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute’s Rokupr Agricultural Research Centre completed a survey and analysis of the rice value chain to understand its structure, functioning and key features — including strengths and weaknesses of key actors and their linkages, costs and returns by product and actor, and constraints and opportunities throughout the value chain — and developed an action plan for upgrading the value chain.

#### Contacts:

Inoussa Akintayo, Country representative, Liberia  
<i.akintayo@cgiar.org>

Olupomi Ayaji, Country coordinator, Sierra Leone  
<o.j.ajayi@cgiar.org>



<sup>1</sup> See ‘Working with farmers to improve water control in inland valleys’, *AfricaRice annual report 2013*, pages 14–16, and ‘Smart-valleys’, *AfricaRice annual report 2014*, pages 32–34.