

# A capacity-building collaboration under the Coalition for African Rice Development

**T**he Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an independent bilateral development institution that aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation and the sound development of the Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery, or economic stability of developing regions. It provides comprehensive technical cooperation, concessional loan, and grant assistance to around 150 developing countries.

JICA, in partnership with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, initiated the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development in 2008. CARD supports the efforts of member countries to develop more effective strategies for national rice development. Twenty-three African countries currently participate in CARD, which aims to double rice production from its inception to 2018, or in ten years. It also serves as a consultative group of donors, research institutions, and other organizations working with rice-producing African countries.

JICA has been working with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Africa since the launch of CARD. Through the support of JICA, IRRI—in partnership with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)—have conducted two phases of training, the first (2011-2014) of which included training for three target groups.

### Courses on rice production techniques

Two 3-week courses on rice production techniques provided hands-on skills development in the field as well as



Extension workers from Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda were part of the first batch that attended the training course on rice production and effective knowledge transfer to African farmers. (Photo: IRRI)

significant time interacting with scientists in the laboratory, field, and classroom:

*Rice Production Techniques for Young Researchers* was attended by 38 participants (11 women and 27 men) from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

*Rice Production Techniques for Research Technicians* was attended by 41 participants (14 women and 27 men) from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali,

Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

### Season-long training for extension agronomists

PhilRice conducted the 16-week training program for extension agronomists, covering various tools for extension, through lectures in the classroom and practical applications with farmers in the field.

The training program, held in the Philippines, was attended by 63 participants (20 women and 43 men) from Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Thirteen participants (4 women and 9 men) from the Philippines also attended the program and served as translators between the African participants and Filipino farmers. Participants numbered 76 in all.

In March 2016, IRRI signed a contract with JICA to begin a second phase of capacity building that complemented CARD initiative for developing the rice seed sector in member countries.

### Quality breeder and foundation seed

IRRI conducted the first 3-week training course, *Quality Breeder and Foundation Seed*, in April and May. This was the first of four training events held at IRRI for the 23 CARD member-countries.

The course provided participants the opportunity to learn hands-on seed production skills in the field; meet and learn from seed producers in Central Luzon, Philippines; get acquainted with appropriate seed storage technologies; and learn about seed systems and seed dissemination through the Stress-Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (STRASA) project and others. The 17 participants (5 women, 12 men) came from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The second offering of the course will be conducted for participants from English-speaking CARD member-countries in September 2016. Another two rounds of the course will be conducted in 2017 and 2018 for French-speaking member-countries.



JICA, in partnership with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, launched CARD in 2008. CARD member-countries are shown in orange in this map of the African continent.

### Rice seed production and extension

PhilRice will conduct the 8-week training course, *Rice Seed Production and Extension*, for participants from the 23

CARD member-countries. The first and second offering of the course will be held in 2017, while a third is scheduled for 2018. ■

### International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations. IRRI is an independent, nonprofit research and educational institute founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, with support from the Philippine government. The institute, headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines, has offices in 15 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa, and about 1,180 staff members of 41 nationalities.

Working with in-country partners, IRRI develops advanced rice varieties that yield more grain and better withstand pests and disease as well as flooding, drought, and other destructive effects of climate change. More than half of the rice area in Asia is planted to IRRI-bred varieties or their progenies. The institute develops new and improved methods and technologies that enable farmers to manage their farms profitably and sustainably, and recommends rice varieties and agricultural practices suitable to particular farm conditions as well as consumer preferences. IRRI assists national agricultural research and extension systems in formulating and implementing country rice sector strategies.

### Contact

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