

# Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)

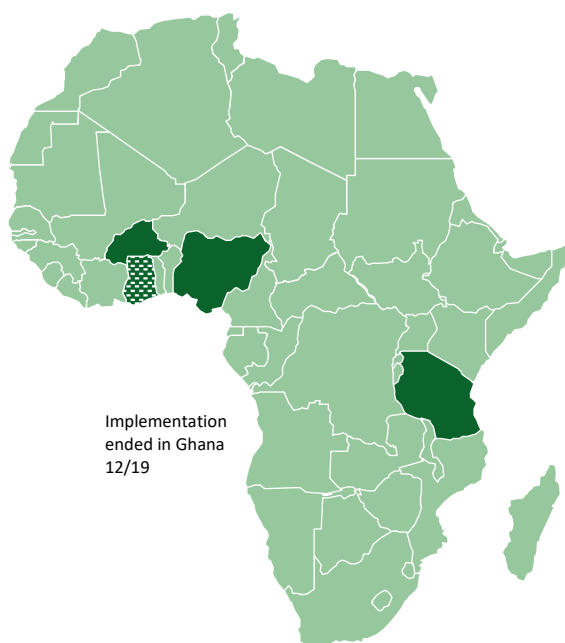
**Farming 4 Future: Integrating smallholder rice farmers into sustainable business models within the value chain**

## RICE IS OUR BUSINESS

Half of the world's population lives on rice. In West and East Africa, too, rice is one of the most important staple foods. However, not nearly enough of it is cultivated to account for rapid population growth. Rice farmers here continue to farm below their actual yield potential. Moreover, the quality of the rice they harvest cannot compete with that of imported rice from Asia.

We, the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) aim to reduce dependency on imported rice while supporting low-income rice farmers. We support small-scale rice production, as well as advocate cooperation on equal terms between our target groups and the private sector.

To date, more than **210,000** farmers have been able to increase their income by up to **700** per cent, thus improving the nutritional status of some **891,000** people.



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| <b>Project name</b>              | Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)                             |
| <b>Commissioned by</b>           | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| <b>Co-financed by</b>            | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation                                      |
| <b>Implementing organization</b> | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH     |
| <b>Political Partner</b>         | ECOWAS, Ministry of Agriculture Tanzania                               |
| <b>Project countries</b>         | Burkina Faso, Ghana (Implementation ended 12/19), Nigeria and Tanzania |
| <b>Project duration</b>          | July 2018 until December 2021  |
| <b>Budget CARI II</b>            | 13.6 million. € CARI II overall  |

## CARI WORKS



**More than 891,000** direct and indirect beneficiaries have increased their income and improved their food security.



**More than 195,000** smallholder farmers have received training in good agricultural practices (GAP).



**More than 172,000** smallholder farmers have participated in farmer business school (FBS) trainings.



Yields in rainfed rice production have increased by up to **309%**, while yields in irrigated rice produced have increased by up to **185%**.



**More than 143,000** farmers are engaged in the rice value chain through contracts with off-takers.

## HOW WE WORK

We aim to **empower rice farmers** by increasing the competitiveness of domestic rice supply and thus raising their income above the poverty line. Both, the increase of productivity and the improvement of the quality have been achieved predominantly through trainings.

The special aspect of our model is to consider **processing as the entry point** in order to strengthen the rural economy and help farmers to meet local food needs. The core elements are our **Matching Funds (MF)**, with which the **private sector is investing** in the entire value chain. In total, the MF partners alone have mobilized over **10 million US dollars**.

**Climate-friendly agriculture** is an important component of our work. For this reason, we are part of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), the world's first voluntary sustainability standard for rice. SRP offers farmers economic, environmental and social benefits beyond greater harvest yields. We have trained **50,000** farmers already; we aim to reach more than **100,000** people in all implementing countries by the end of 2021.

Since agriculture is the most important economic sector on the African continent, we need to **harness the full potential of women**, if we are to meet the growing demand for food.



We work with Matching Funds partners, local public or private institutions, small to medium sized rice processors and input providers, **to reach, benefit and empower women**.

Thus far we reached **73.000** women, **35 %** of all our farmers.



## NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR HIGHER YIELDS

We also work with research institutions and technology startups **to explore and scale up digital agriculture solutions**.

The app *Paddybase* by the Nigerian startup Crop2Cash, for example, is digitalizing the value chain from the field to the rice mill. The data is used to record the quality of the raw rice the farmers sell, allowing farmers to charge higher prices for better quality in future.

Another app by this startup is an SMS-based solution that provides access to credit and has links to weather insurance and weather alerts. This supports small holder farmers better for climate-related risks, such as flooding or drought, and increases resilience.

We are contributing to the following sustainable Development Goals:



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