

## COMPETITIVE AFRICAN RICE INITIATIVE FINAL REPORT - GHANA

### BACKGROUND

Rice is one of the most important staple foods in Africa. The demand is rapidly increasing due to population growth, urbanization, and changing consumer behavior.

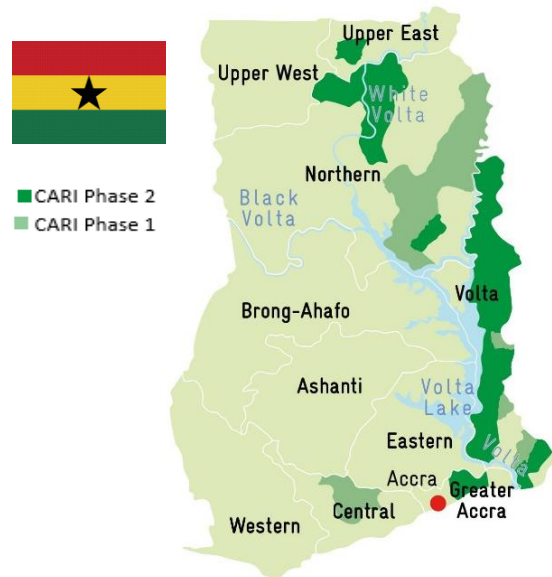
The local production does not meet the continent's demand for rice. Locally cultivated rice is predominantly produced on small fields (less than one hectare). The yields per ha are one of the lowest worldwide. The main reasons for the low production of local rice are insufficient inputs, outdated farming practices, and inefficient business linkages.

As prices for their products are low, smallholder farmers are left with low-income margins, and as a result, most of the rural population in rice-producing areas live in poverty.

### PROJECT INFORMATION

To tackle these problems, the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) as well as the Walmart Foundation. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implemented the initiative in four African countries – amongst them, Ghana, which represents the focus of the following report.

CARI operated over a timeframe of six years in Ghana, significantly improving the livelihoods of smallholder rice farmers. Based on a value chain approach, CARI focused on fostering linkages amongst rice value chain actors, increasing productivity, and improving the quality of smallholder farmers' rice produce.



Project regions - Ghana

The support of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and ECOWAS as well as the cooperation with CARI's local implementation partners, TechnoServe and John A. Kufuor Foundation (JAKF) were decisive for the project's achievements in Ghana.



## INSTRUMENTS

CARI's approach is anchored around a Matching Fund (MF). The MF is used to promote the commitment of predominantly private companies connected to the rice sector.

It leverages private sector funds to mobilize resources and realize synergies, which result in higher impacts and better marked linkages. This way, the project was able to enhance a sustainable and demand-driven production increase. Over the past 6 years, the initiative cooperated with ten MF Partner in Ghana:

Christian Aid	CRAN
Farmer Lane	Fysso
Okata	Savban
SATCO	Tamanaa
Wienco	Worawora

Those MF partnerships leveraged approximately **€1,6 million** from the private sector (predominantly rice mills) to sustainably increase the quality and quantity of the rice produce. CARI's estimated budget on the activity implementation was about **€5,1 million**.

A key component of these activities were various trainings which were technically supported by CARI. For example:

- Good Agricultural Practices
- Contract farming training
- Farmer Field Schools
- Nutrition trainings
- Parboiling training
- Diversification training
- Bankers training

Additional to the trainings, the improved linkages between producers and processors/ aggregators through contract farming, had a positive impact on the entire sector.

Local processing and marketing companies started to benefit from a reliable supply of high-quality rice, as they enter stable supply relationships with smallholders. Local businesses gain better access to finance as result of the improved linkages. With this, a well-functioning value chain is developed, connecting input suppliers, rice farmers, millers and distributors.

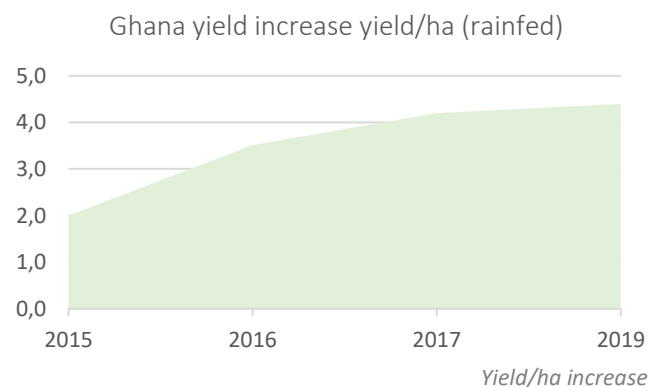


GAP – Demonstration Plot

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGURES - GHANA

- **More than 141,000** direct and indirect beneficiaries have increased their income and improved their food security.
- **More than 33,000** smallholder farmers have received training in GAP.
- **More than 34,000** smallholder farmers have participated in Farmer Field Schools.
- **More than 19,000** farmers engaged in inclusive business models through contracts with off-takers (e.g. rice mills).
- **Approximately 3,600** full-time job equivalents were created.

Since the beginning of CARI's implementation in 2013, Ghanaian rice farmers increased their yield substantially. Yields in rainfed rice production have increased by up to 120%.





## Women:

Furthermore, CARI focusses on the integration of women in agriculture. The Walmart Foundation co-funded CARI to identify a gender gap affecting particularly women in rice production and processing. One of the most successful measures to close this gap, was rice parboiling training. In Ghana, up to 7000 women were trained in improved parboiling techniques and managing economics.

The participating women were grouped and trained in terms of acquiring good quality paddy and process it in a hygienic and effective way. Better knowledge and the opportunity to exchange experiences enabled the women to advance from low-skilled, low-paid employment conditions to a more independent situation as successful businesswomen. *83% of the women stated, that they are now able to process more paddy while, 100% emphasized that they receive a higher price due to the better rice quality.*

Additionally, CARI partnered with Women in Agriculture Development (WIAD), a division of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. They specialize in nutrition training, providing the expertise on access to resources towards an increase in production, improved nutrition, health and food security. Approximately 5500 women benefitted from the nutrition training.

Furthermore, CARI worked with Meridian Agricultural Services (MAS) a private company

specialized in food crop production. With a focus on crop diversification, they trained more than 18.000 women in good agricultural practices for soybean, cowpea, millet, sesame and groundnut.

## EXCHANGE MATTERS

Besides the work on ground, CARI engaged in sector-related discussion with public and private institutions.

The initiative was part of a country-wide working group and cooperated with the following institutions: MoFA, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), AGRA, Ghana Insurance College, JAKF, KOICA and JICA. In several meetings, it was discussed to establish a National Rice Coordinating Committee to coordinate rice projects in Ghana from September 2019 to September 2021.

The working group was also represented at the Multi-Actor Partnership for Rice (MAP4Rice) meetings, CARI hosted to support cross-national organizational exchange, as well as the coordination of development organizations in the rice sector.

Discussions included the identification of various bottlenecks, and joint approaches were developed.

In addition, CARI supported through the JAKF the Ministry (MoFA) to develop the National Rice Development Strategy. A National Rice Council will be implemented in March 2020. In the meantime, JAKF hosts a dialogue platform between rice value chain actors, importers, and parliament who are operationalizing aspects of the NRSD (e.g. marketing, funding, machinery, and production).



*Crop-diversification training*

## A GLANCE INTO THE FIELD

Bumpy roads, small villages, and banana plantations line the way from Accra to the rural area called Fievie within the Volta Region. Only one hundred kilometers away from Ghana's capital, you find rice fields stretching across hundreds of hectares. The wet season just started, and the rice farmers begin to harvest.

Rebecca Torsah a smallholder rice farmer, sits on the edge of her rice field in the shadow under an improvised awning. The 38-year old stands up and smiles proudly, looking at her rice field, which is almost ready to harvest. While she is turning to her farm neighbor Julius Kwadzo Amerku, she says in Ewe, the local language, "The rice will be good this time and the yield even better." Her expression shows gratitude.

Julius is the lead farmer of his farmer cooperative and considers himself as the link between the farmers and Fysso, a rice-processing mill in the area. Fysso is a local partner involved in CARI, a project, which initiated training courses for farmers to improve their farming practices. Julius had the chance to participate - and both quality and yield increased after he applied the recommended methods.



Rebecca Torsah

During the last seasons, Rebecca observed the development of Julius's rice field with astonishment. "His yield must have increased from 2.5 mT/ha to at least 4.5 mT/ha", she explains.

Her neighbor's rice field was very green and well maintained while hers began to turn yellow.

*"I already knew, when the season started in August, that it would be challenging to get access to fertilizer, so I approached Julius", she says with a smile.*

Julius took a closer look at his neighbor's field and instructed her to apply fertilizer on her rice field immediately to avoid quality and yield loss. *"Yes, Rebecca was certainly fortunate, because I still had some fertilizer left," Julius says satisfied.*

Rebecca says relieved: *"Now, my whole family is looking forward to harvest soon, considering how green and fruitful our rice field is."*

Rebecca expressed her interest in becoming a member of Julius's cooperative, so they started the process to put it into practice. Having a pre-contract with a rice-processing mill gives her the opportunity to receive the required inputs and produce high quality rice. Moreover, Rebecca is interested in learning more about land preparation, planting, seeds, fertilizer, and harvest from the farmers of her cooperative.

Both, the described spillover effect of knowledge as well as the sustainable improvement of the rice sector reflect striven and sustainable results of CARI's interventions.

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