Progress in Rice Production in Africa: Experience in Burkina Faso

Elaborated by Task Force
I. Contexts - Rice Farming in Burkina Faso

II. Overview of SNDR in Burkina Faso

III. Progress made in rice sector in Burkina Faso

IV. Factors contributing to rice sector development in Burkina Faso

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I. Contexts

- Rice Farming in Burkina Faso (1/3)

- Rice is the fourth major cereal produced in Burkina Faso and its demand is rapidly increasing

- Rice is produced in three agro-ecologies in Burkina Faso with the production of 347,501 tonnes of paddy in the total area of 144,261 ha in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of production</th>
<th>Share in the total areas of rice cultivation</th>
<th>Share in the total production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern Irrigation schemes</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland with traditional water management</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain-fed Lowland</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain-fed Upland</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The national production is still limited:

- Covered demand: 22% in 2005 while 15% in 2007

- With government interventions: 41% in 2008 et 56% in 2012 and 2014
Increasing national rice production is the strategic challenge for the government:

- To reduce the drain of scarce foreign exchange caused by importations
- To ensure the food sovereignty
- To increase the contribution to economic growth
The contribution of rice sector to the economic growth remains low while it increases in absolute term from 8 billion FCFA in 2008 to 12 billion FCFA in 2014.

This relatively small economic contribution is explained by the fragile nature of rice farming by the rural poor whose production is mainly for home-consumption.

In addition, the average farm size according to agro-ecological zones are:

- Modern Irrigation Schemes: 1 ha/ producer
- Lowland with traditional water management: 0,25 ha/ producer
- Rain-fed lowland: 0,40 ha/ producer
- Rain-fed upland: 0,60 ha/ producer
II. Overview of SNDR in Burkina Faso

- NRDS is the framework for all interventions in exploitation of and value addition to the national rice potential in Burkina Faso by 2018.

- It should enable the country to produce 842,065 tonnes of paddy (537,342 tonnes of milled rice) which would cover the projected national demand (466,000 tonnes of milled rice) in 2018.

- It is to be implemented through projects and programs with rice objectives, and being run for the period of 2008-2018.

- The strategic pillars defined are;

  Pillar 1: Increased area of rice cultivation,
  Pillar 2: Sustainable intensification of rice production,
  Pillar 3: Value addition in rice production,
  Pillar 4: Research/Dissemination, advisory supports, capacity building of stakeholders.
III. Progress made in rice sector in Burkina Faso (1/5)

Rice production zones
- Large rice plaines: Bagré, Sourou, Bama, Banzon, Mogtedo, Karfinguela
- Lowland and Upland: the whole country, particularly in Sudanese and sub-Sudanese Zones
Over the period of 2007-2014, the production of paddy increased by 404% (from 68,916 tonnes in 2007 to 347,501 tonnes in 2014) and the cultivated area increased by 256% (from 40,535ha to 144,261 ha), while the productivity increase is limited to 42%.
The increase in rice production area was mainly due to the changes of farmers choice (from other crops to rice), and the expansion of rice in newly exploited areas. The key factors that can explain the increased area of rice cultivation in Burkina Faso are:

<Production Aspects>

- The promotion of rice production in the rain-fed upland ecology (awareness creation, campaigning, farmers field schools),
- The systematic integration of rice cultivation component in almost all agriculture projects implemented after the food crisis in 2008, especially the lowland rice production with traditional water management;
- Dissemination of new rice varieties for rain-fed lowland and upland ecologies (FKR 45N, 47N, 49N 58N, 60N and 62N) that are more resistant to erratic rainfall and thus less demanding in terms of water management;
- Policies to improve access to inputs (production and distribution) and equipment (production and processing) through price subsidies
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**<Marketing Aspects>**
- Stabilization of the farm gate rice price through the establishment of National Forum on the floor price of rice since 2010, where the price is reviewed and set every 2 years. This stabilized price attracted farmers to start/expand rice cultivation and promoted local rice consumption.
- Active private sector through government policies (resulted from “Framework for dialogues between public and private sectors”):
  - Open tender for public procurement and the supply of farm inputs
  - Reduction of custom duties on imports of agricultural equipment
  - Establishment of the investment fund that benefits the private sector
- Value chain integration through strengthened inter-professionals in agriculture sector for better communication and information exchange by legislation (Law No 050-2012/AN)
The relatively small improvement in productivity can be explained by:

- Erratic rainfall
- Low renewal rate of improved rice seeds especially at the rain-fed lowland
- Low utilization of improved seeds (35%)
- Low utilization of organic and inorganic fertilizer
- Uncertain quality of some seeds sold in markets
IV. Factors contributing to rice sector development in Burkina Faso

- Strong political commitment of the government that realized campaigns for local rice production and consumption, subsidy on inputs, and establishment of funds for private investment.
- Strong interest and commitment of some Development Partners (Significant number of project and program on rice)
- Marketing policies (through a rice purchase institution SONAGESS, promotion of domestic rice consumption through forums, floor price to rice producers, social ceiling price for consumers, etc.)
- Organisation/restructuring of value chain actors (CIR-B, UNPSB, UNPR-B and their branches)
- Emerging dynamic private sector in rice seed production (NAFASO, AGRODIA, FAGRI, etc), grain production in modern irrigation schemes and the rice processing industry with modern equipment and facilities
- Strengthened extension service and advisory supports to rice producers (recruitment, redeployment, training/retraining of field workers and engineers)
- Improved Monitoring and Evaluation
The main challenge currently faced by the rice sector in Burkina Faso is increasing rice production to meet domestic rice demand. This calls for:

- **Intensification of production (improving productivity) and rehabilitation of existing production facilities**
- **Improved water management especially through extension in existing sites**
- **Better organization of relevant stakeholders, and strengthening the capacity of extension agents**
- **Improvement of business l’environnement for rice sector**
V. Challenges and Way forward for rice production in Burkina Faso

In terms of the way forward for the NRDS process in Burkina Faso:

- Forming a new national steering team for the process of NRDS
- Mid-term evaluation on the NRDS;
- Organising sessions for effective integration of NRDS in the new phase of National Development Program for Rural Sector (CAADP investment plans in other countries) for the operationalization of CAADP at national level;
- Defining a new road map for the implementation of NRDS
- Preparation of the next CARD General Meeting in November in Accra