**TICAD 7 CARD Side Event**

On 30th August, in Yokohama, Japan, JICA and AGRA co-organized a launching event of CARD 2nd phase (2019-2030) whose target is to re-double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. More than 160 people participated in the event. The welcome greeting was delivered by Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Senior Vice President, JICA. It was followed by a congratulatory address by Hon. Tadahiko Ito, member of the House of Representatives, keynote speeches by Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD, Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director General, FAO, Hon. Ranarivelo Lucien, Minister of Agriculture, Madagascar, and Prof. Moussa Balde, Minister of Agriculture, Senegal. They emphasized the importance of rice sector for food security and economic development. At the presentation session, specific ideas of the RICE approach (Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness, and Empowerment) that will be adopted in the National Rice Development Strategies of the CARD member countries were shared by the presenters.; AfricaRice expressed the necessity of innovative rice research and development, and African Union Commission explained the importance of sustainable agriculture mechanization. Representing Japanese private sector, Kubota Corporation emphasized the effectiveness of agricultural mechanization, and Toyota Tsusho Corporation presented its value chain business in Africa.

**CARD Phase 2 Video**

A new CARD video entitled “CARD Impact and introduction of CARD phase 2” has been published. It is available in three languages, English, French and Japanese, on the top page of CARD web site. Please watch it! <https://www.riceforafrica.net>.

**NRDS Revision**

From April to September 2019, 13 CARD working weeks were held for developing revised NRDS documents in 12 countries. New CARD member countries, namely Chad, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, and Niger, started to elaborate their NRDS. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Tanzania organized workshop for their NRDS revision. Many countries have emphasized the importance of private sector investment and quality seed in NRDS drafts. Also, they have tried to identify priority areas for the development of rice sector.

**IsDB as a potential partner**

IsDB had recently expressed its interest in joining the CARD-SC. IsDB presently invests over $244 million in the rice sector in 10 CARD member countries through the CAADP framework of AU-DA-NEPAD. IsDB largely focuses on raising smallholder rice productivity, improving access to markets and strengthening of the institutional capacities. Since NRDS is within the scope of national agriculture investment plans of all the CARD member countries; IsDB shall be expected to leverage its investments, grow new partnerships, and monitor and communicate with the rice stakeholders in the CARD member countries. This topic will be discussed in the 8th CARD General Meeting in 2020.

**CARD Secretariat**

Mr. Tomokazu NAGAI has become Technical coordinator in the CARD Secretariat, replacing Mr. Yuichi KUMAGAI. Thank you Yuichi for your great contribution over the last 4 years and half.

**15th CARD Steering Committee Meeting**

The 15th CARD Steering Committee Meeting was held on 10th June 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. Co-chaired by NEPAD and WFP, the meeting was attended by the representatives from ten SC member organizations, namely, AfricaRice, AGRA, FARA, IFAD, IRRI, JICA, JIRCAS, NEPAD, World Bank and WFP, Islamic Development Bank was also in attendance as an observer. The objectives of the SC15 were to (i) finalize the membership of IsDB and the regional economic communities (RECs) into the SC, (ii) obtain a consent on the 2019-20 annual plan of CARD, (iii) invite commitments from the SC members on leading the CARD activities at the country level and the required financial and technical support for the process, and (iv) share information on rice-related interventions by the SC members in the CARD member countries.