

TICAD Side Event on CARD

Co-Chairs Summary

- Comments and overall observations on the side event
- As presented, CARD has made significant progress in the first five years which all CARD member countries and CARD partner organizations deserve the compliments and appreciation for their efforts and supports for the initiative.
- However, what has been achieved so far is just foundation work, on which further development is required to give impact on our goal to double rice production in Africa. In this regard the CARD secretariat will continue working with CARD countries, especially in the operationalization of National Rice Development Strategy and its concept notes.
- Also a series of presentations were made regarding the involvement of private sector in the African agriculture.
- We heard from both international investment corporation and local small scale agro-dealers on opportunities and business potentials in African Agriculture as well as challenges faced by private sector for further participation and investment. These presentations, together with the presentation on agricultural mechanization gave some insights on what possible subscription government can provide to create enabling business environment through putting right policies in place.
- We also had presentations on government efforts for private sector promotion from Burkina Faso and Tanzania. Even though they are not perfect, these attempts started to show some success, and provide evidences from which other African countries can learn.
- When it comes to private sector participation in African Agriculture, “land grab” issue is often highlighted with negative impacts being stressed. However, in all countries where agriculture is advanced, private sector plays important roles and their contribution to food security and economic growth is quite significant.
- Private sector can bring capital, infrastructure, improved technology, extension, and markets, therefore it is especially important for African countries where government often cannot afford most of them.
- So, the question is not “whether we need private sector or not”, but “how best public sector can work with Private sector” and “How development partners can support this process.”
- For successful PPP, both public and private sector has roles to play, to ensure the benefit of small holders and private sector, as well as contribution to government development goal. Government needs to set right policies to attract private investment in order to maximize their contribution while regulating any harmful activities to society. Private sector pursues

profit, with responsible investment and other economic activities. Development partners and research institutions can provide support on policy, technical, financial socio-economic and cultural aspects, utilizing their respective capacities. Civil society can monitor PPP process when the government enforcement is not sufficient and report to other parties.

- They all should work appropriately, but “How best it can be done” depends on specific context, thus further discussion and analysis should be continued at national level.
- In identifying how we can achieve this optimal PPP , what is important is communication among all stakeholders so that everybody knows what other parties want and do not want. And this is one of the objectives for today’s side event, discussing PPP together with all stakeholders.
- CARD will continue supporting communication among all relevant stakeholders in Rice sector in Africa, and we hope it will contribute to healthy development of private sector which will eventually result in the growth in African rice sector.
- At last, but not least, significant contributions to the event were made by IFAD, Ugandan Government, JIRCAS, Africa Rice, IRRI, JICA and NEPAD which were quite insightful and enriched our discussion today. Our appreciation goes to all contributors, and we expect continue working closely together.
- Finally, Closing remark by Jane