

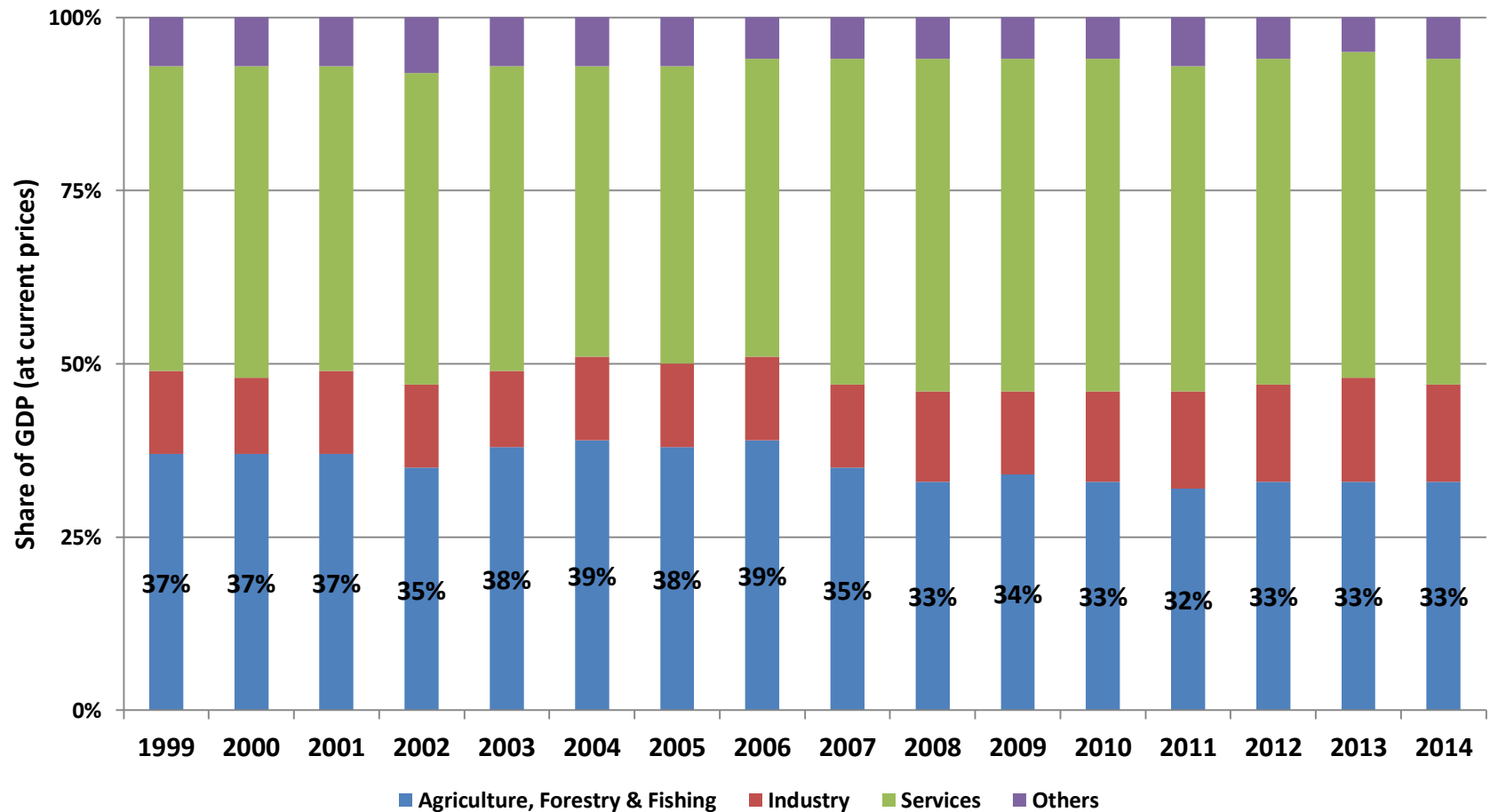
Implementation of NRDS in Rwanda

A successful case of CARD process in
marshland development

Introduction - I

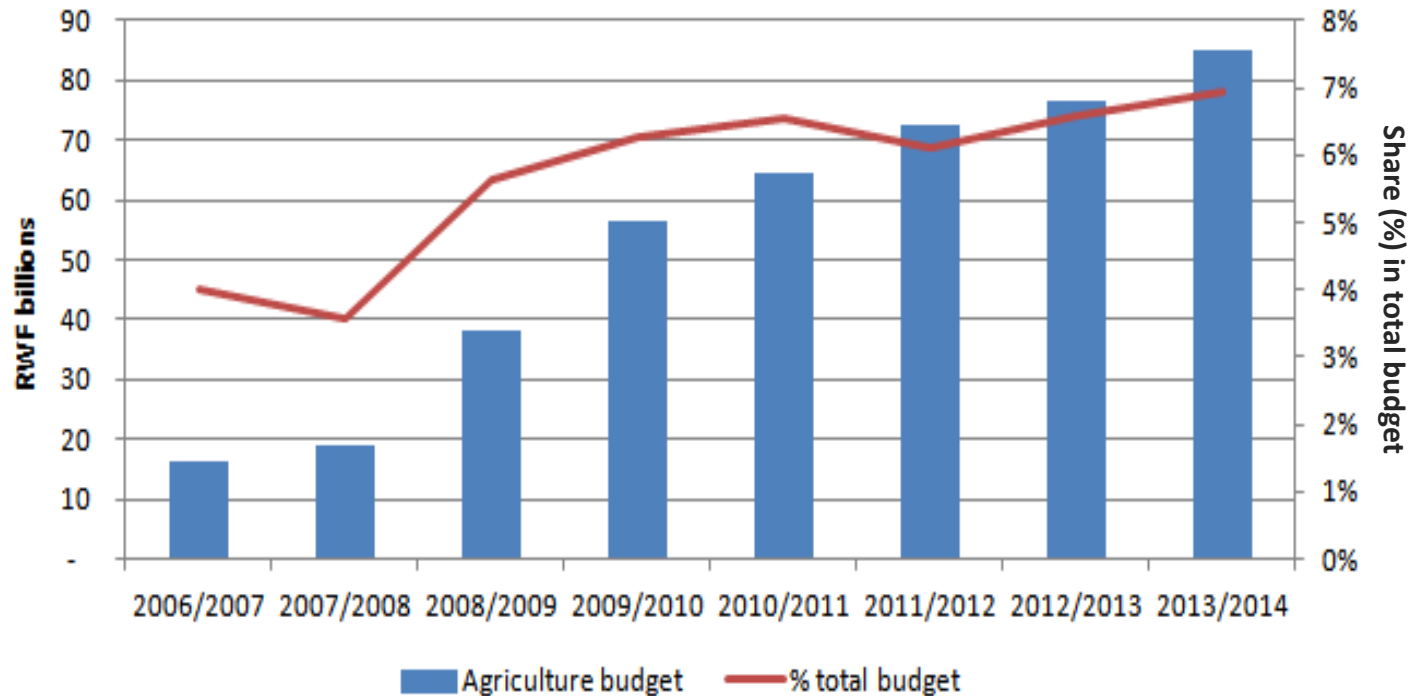
Rice sector in Rwanda

Agriculture sector is important for Rwanda's economy



Data Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (National Accounts, 2014)

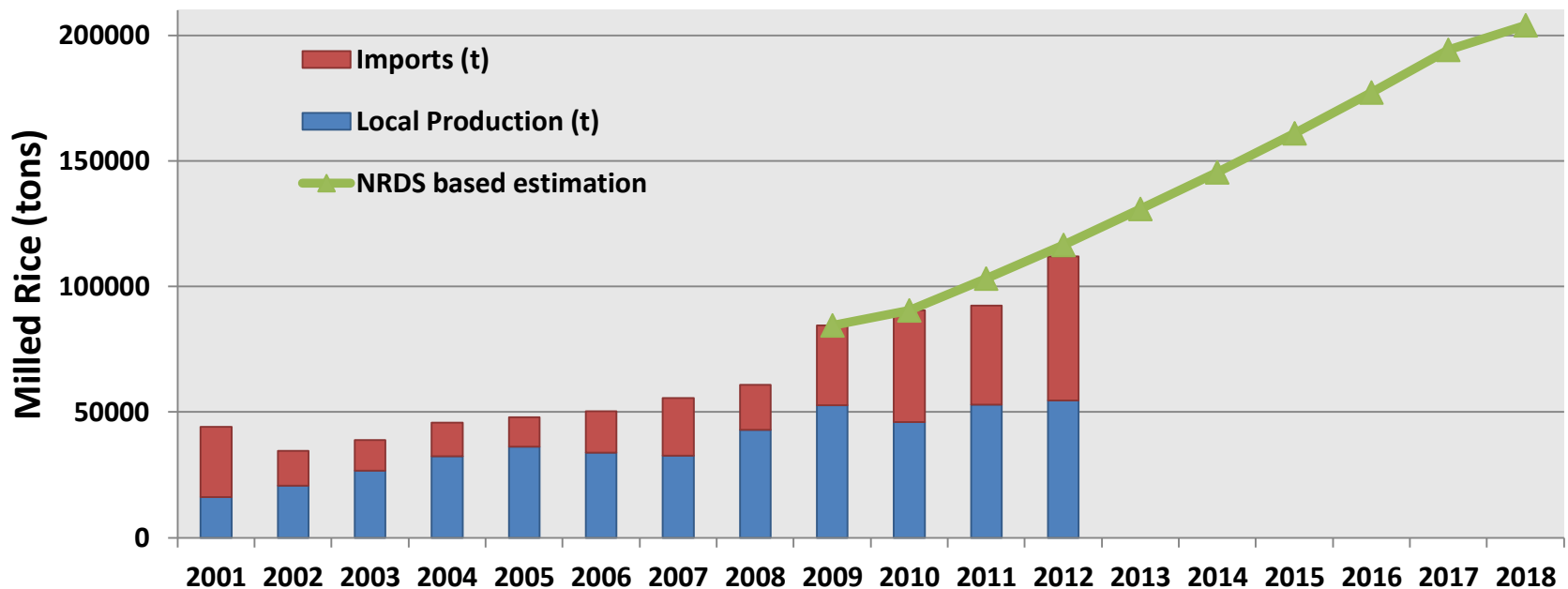
Budget allocation for Rwanda's agriculture sector has steadily increased under the CAADP Compact



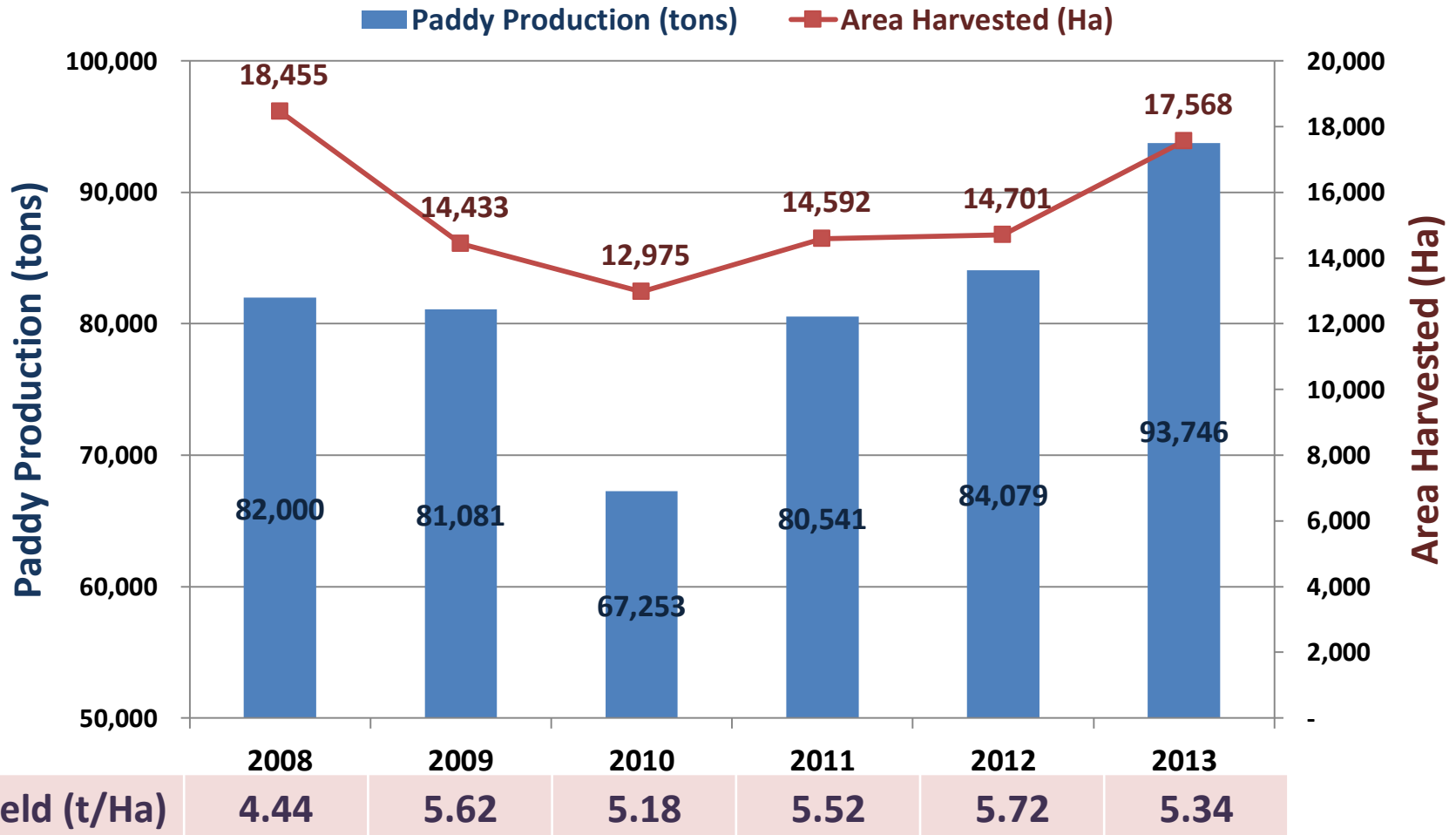
[Source: MINAGRI; Development Initiatives]

Rice Sector in Rwanda

- Rice is *mostly* produced by
 - smallholder farmers in marshlands
- In the recent years, domestic rice consumption has far exceeded the local rice production – forcing markets to import rice and exerting strain on the economy



Trends in rice production in Rwanda



Rice production 'largely' depends on area (marshlands) under rice cultivation

Drivers for Rice Sector Development

- **Policies:**
 - Recognize rice as a priority crop for growth in agriculture sector, poverty reduction and economic development
 - Low interference by government in ownership and maintenance of marshland infrastructures by rice farmers' cooperatives
 - Land Use Consolidation policy (Farmers in a given area grow the same crop and are supported under a flagship Crop Intensification Program) favoring intensive rice production in the marshlands
- **Markets:-**
 - Strong demand: 48.2% of the rice consumption demand is presently met by importation
 - Adequate milling (medium to large) capacities through out the country to absorb production from marshlands

Drivers for Rice Sector Development

- Ecology:-
 - Favorable agro-climatic conditions for rice production (adequate water, good soil fertility, higher on-farm rice yields)
 - Physical availability of marshlands (66,000 Ha at different altitudes)
- Culture:-
 - Deep rooted culture of rice farmers' co-operatives in marshlands
 - Traditional clustering & long history of efficient sharing of resources (water, inputs and services) by farmers in marshlands
- Active Participation of Development Partners:-
 - Good governance and higher aid effectiveness in Rwanda have influenced DPs to opt for funding a range of other supporting infrastructure and capacity building projects in marshlands

Introduction - II

CARD Activities & NRDS in Rwanda

CARD Initiative in Rwanda – Key Events

Timeline	Activities
May, 2010	Rwanda joined CARD as one of the second group member countries
July, 2011	NRDS formulation, Development of Concept Notes
Sep, 2011	Official Launching of NRDS
2012	Rwanda receives CARD support in improving rice farm mechanization
April, 2013	Mainstreaming of NRDS (with national and CAADP frameworks), Fund Matching Activities
June 2013	Identification of potential marshlands for rice cultivation and Concept notes on marshland development
November 2014	Fund Matching, Assessment of NRDS influence on project formulation
January 2015	Development of Concept Notes on potential areas of investment by private sector in rice value chain
February 2015	Government of Rwanda expressed interest in joining CARD's rice seed pilot initiative on improving rice seed sub-sector


NRDS implementation in Rwanda

- NRDS of Rwanda aims to achieve self-sufficiency in rice
 - by increasing domestic rice production by 5-fold by 2018
- A major strategic intervention proposed under NRDS involves ‘expansion of land area under rice cultivation’
 - **increase marshland area under rice cultivation from 7,000 Ha in 2008 to 28,500 Ha by 2018**
- Rwanda has a total capacity of 66,094 Ha of potential marshlands
 - 53,000 Ha of marshlands remain unused due to lack of funds for reclamation
 - But, not all of them are suited for rice cultivation

A successful case of NRDS implementation in Rwanda under CARD process

Analysis of Fund Matching Process
with KOICA on
Marshland Reclamation

Key Events that led to funding of: Marshland reclamation under Rural Community Support Project (RCSP) by KOICA – A successful case of NRDS implementation in Rwanda under CARD process

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- April, 2013**
 - ❖ Meeting between Minister, CARD General and Technical Coordinators
 - ❖ Minister requested CARD to assist in identifying marshlands suitable for rice cultivation
 - June, 2013**
 - ❖ CARD organized a working week with NRDS taskforce to identify marshlands
 - ❖ Submission of the marshland inventory and Concept Notes (CNs) to Minister
 - ❖ Minister forwarded CNs, requesting potential donors for their supports
 - ❖ Mainstreaming of NRDS within CAADP framework (PSTA-III)
 - ❖ Lobbying for fund mobilization to Development Partners by NRDS taskforce and CARD
 - Aug, 2013**
 - ❖ KOICA showed interest in funding marshland reclamation
 - Nov, 2014**
 - ❖ KOICA Funding for 'Rural Community Support Project (RCSP)' commenced, and KOICA picked up a few reclamation sites from the inventory
 - Present**
 - ❖ Marshland reclamation for rice cultivation is underway in Gisagara, Muhanga, Kamonyi and Ngoma (*4 of the 11 sites proposed by NRDS taskforce*)

Key roles played by the different stakeholders

Stakeholder	Roles
Government (Minister, Permanent Secretary, Ministry Officials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong will to include rice as a priority crop under CAADP framework (PSTA-III)• Sought assistance from CARD in identifying suitable marshlands• Proactively selling concept notes to Development Partners (e.g. KOICA)• Engaged in KOICA's project appraisal of marshlands by showcasing other similar projects (e.g. RSSP)
Taskforce members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided technical inputs to the identification of marshlands• Organized 'resource persons' for CARD Working Week
CARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitized government and DPs on NRDS implementation by mainstreaming NRDS within PSTA-III• Provided technical assistance in identification of marshlands and formulation of concept notes• Fund matching activities – Assisted Rwanda Gov't in Lobbying for funding by KOICA

Success Factors

Involvement of high rank officials (Minister and Permanent Secretary)

- Readiness in cooperating and utilizing opportunities from Development Partners through technical and fund matching activities under the CARD initiative
- Minister used CARD to prepare quality Concept Notes and Inventory
- High rank officials proactively marketed C/N and Inventory to Development Partners (What they say counts more than what lower rank officials say)

Mainstreaming of NRDS

- Emphasis of NRDS as the core strategy for rice development in national CAADP strategic plan for agriculture transformation (PSTA/SPAT-III) enabled lobbying for funds from DPs and public- and private stakeholders

Inventory

- List of feasible marshlands for rice cultivation and Concept Notes on reclamation of these marshlands were already available, thus they were convenient for interested donors to “buy-in”
- Quality of the inventory and Concept Notes was assured by Task Force members and CARD, thus helped convince KOICA

Success Factors

Timing (one of the most critical factors)

- Minister, Task Force members and CARD worked, keeping in mind the time frame for DPs decision making on new funding (September, 2013, the deadline for finalization of funding agendas by KOICA)

Proactive Involvement of Taskforce

- Lead the CARD process from the front with enthusiasm
- Resource persons (with expertise on marshland development and irrigation) were engaged by taskforce in preparing the concept notes

Others:-

- Marshland development and rice cultivation is a proven strategy for poverty reduction amongst rural communities, and thus has gained prominence amongst DPs

Other on-going CARD facilitated Fund Matching Activities in Rwanda

Nov, 2014:-

- It was learnt that a few DPs such as USAID, DFID and IFAD are interested in supporting investments by private sector in agriculture
- Discussions with USAID and IFAD on their focus areas/strategies

Jan, 2015:-

- CARD assisted NRDS taskforce in developing concept notes on possible private investments that could be supported by DPs through matching of interests along the rice value chain
- Engagement of USAID, IFAD, IFDC and private companies in developing concept notes
- Three Concept Notes requiring investments from private and public (DPs/government) are prepared for submission

Present:-

- Waiting for 'Call for Proposals' from USAID/DFID/IFAD

Conclusions

- Involvement of high rank officials (especially their proactive engagement in fund mobilization) and mainstreaming of NRDS increases the funding opportunities. (They are well listened to by DPs)
- NRDS implementation can be bolstered by the CARD process such as Concept Notes formulation and fund matching activities
- Concept Notes have better chances of getting funded when the needs of the NRDS are properly matched with the interests of the development partners. It can be done only with proactive engagement of Taskforce Members in fine-tuning of CN according to DPs interest, and/or involvement of potential DPs in formulation of C/N.
- Timing is the key determinant of success. Taskforce should be aware of timeframe for DPs new funding, and the necessary actions for the funding process such as formulation/revision of CN and communication with DPs should be taken in a timely manner
- Responses of development partners will be favorable when the Concept Notes are endorsed by the Ministry and/or they are sold by high rank officials.