

The Inception Report

- **Name and Position :-**

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- **Organization :-**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF) .

- **Country :-**

Sudan.

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Introduction

Rice is considered as an important food crop as it is the main staple food crop for 54% of world population and provides 21% of total human calories requirements. . In 2010, the total global area under rice cultivation is estimated to be 150 million ha with annual production averaging 465 million metric tons (milled rice). Rice is a tropical crop that have been cultivated in moderate regions and achieved high productivity that reached 8 tons per hectare in Australia, 6 tons per hectare in China and Japan. Sudan has a total estimated potential rice area of more than 300.000 hectares. If this area is properly utilized, it would suffice the local consumption demand to fill the gap for non-course food grains. In the Gezira, the crop was introduced by the technical assistance of China in 1973 through 1980. During this period,12.000 hectares were cultivated under irrigation system attaining 3.5 to 7.6 t ha⁻¹. In the White Nile State, the crop is cultivated as irrigated and is being cultivated as a flood ecosystem. Low yields of 0.98-1.2 t ha⁻¹ were produced using traditional varieties with low inputs that are not adequate to enhance productivity. The strategy of the government of Sudan is produce rice to meet domestic demand and export to contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

CAADP&NRDS – Action plan in my country

There are big gaps between NRDS target figures and reality on the ground.

The main reason is that we have not got a proper systematic development approach for the development of rice sector.

On the other hand there are many outstanding issues between NRDS target and actual implementation.

These outstanding issues are categorized into (8) points by the second rice sector development forum, we so call them the (8) bottle neck issues .

So without tackling these bottle neck issues by a systematic approach program , the current situation of rice sector could not be improved .

The concrete activities conducted regarding the alignment of CAADP and NRDS . These include :-

- 1- Demo farms , trials for fertilizers dose , herbicide , irrigation intervals seed rate , leveling effect , sowing date , harvest and post harvest operations. (jica) with collaboration with states ministries of agriculture and ARC .
- 2- Capacity building programs (Jica) .

- 3- Establishment of rice promotion units at the states level .
- 4- Commercial rice of farmers (Gezira –White Nile).

The partners participating in the implementation of the action for alignment of CAADP and NRDS are :

- 1- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry .
- 2- National Rice project .
- 3- JICA .
- 4- ARC .
- 5- State ministries of agriculture (these include six states target for rice production , where we established six rice promotion units to carry on the activities of rice development .
- 6- The private sector . Those who showed the willing to invest in rice sector .
- 7- The companies that specialized in selling agricultural machineries and equipments e.g CTC (central trading company) .

The successful experiences (good practices) in the implementation of the action plan , could be summarized as follows :-

- 1- Demo -farms conducted by jica and the other trials in rice production showed the suitability of the crop to Sudan .
- 2- Capacity building programs , more than 400 extensionists were well trained in rice production technologies .
- 3- Establishment of six rice promotion units at the state level .
- 4- The commercial rice fields ,showed the profitability of the crop to increase farmers income .(still more steps are needed).
- 5- ARC successfully released 4 varieties for the upland ecosystem (we need to propagate these seeds).
- 6- Partnership with the private sector .e.g Crown Rice Project production of high quality rice , but still the area cultivated annually is small (400 feddans) it in not matching with the existing milling factory of a capacity of 50 ton / day .

The Duties of my organization (MOAF):

Is to facilitate achieving the target goal of food security and increasing farmers income , through :-

- 1- Facilitate the job of the assisting organizations and agencies .e.g jica .
- 2- To secure the local component.
- 3- Secure the required production inputs .
- 4- Provision of rice machineries and equipments .
- 5- Provide subsidies to encourage farmers for rice production .
- 6- Irrigation facilities .

- 7- Extensionists and assisting labors involved in rice production .
- 8- Other requirements , buildings , area for cultivation activities ,etc.

The Duties of my Department :-

- 1- To coordinate between all activities regarding rice development .
- 2- Facilitate the job of the assisting organizations at the federal and at the state level .

The Challenges faced by the rice sector in general :-

As rice is a new crop in Sudan , we are still at the introductory stage ,but all the trial conducted showed good promising results at the different ecosystems . still we lack the technical know how , we need more work in harvest and post harvest operation s, processing and marketing .

To address these challenges in practical measures , we conducted rice sector development forum, where all these challenges were discussed .

Our current plan is to solve all these challenges practically one by one through the national rice project and the institutional units related to rice sector .

Challenges in NRDS implementation :-

As we mentioned before, we need to minimize the gap between NRDS implementation and that which existing in real on the ground , This will be achieved through solving the bottle neck issues discussed at the second rice sector development forum .

The Challenges (bottle neck issues) are :-

- 1- Pure seeds .
- 2- Land preparation (leveling).
- 3- Weed control (herbicides).
- 4- Irrigation (actual crop water requirements – intervals of irrigation).
- 5- Fertilizers (type ,dose and time of application).
- 6- Harvest and post harvest operation.
- 7- Processing.
- 8- Marketing.

How to solve these Challenges:-

My idea for solving these Challenges is to take them one by one through the national rice project, which is now already established in real and become an authorized department with separate bud jet released from the ministry of finance and national economy.

This bud jet should be directed to solve these Challenges with the aid of the relevant concerning insituations.

My expectation to the course regarding these Challenges is to share idea with other countries, we may see and discover similar Challenges at other countries and learn the shortest way in solving such Challenges.

Also we could benefit from the largest experience of Japan in the field of rice production.

The important act is to start progress from the stagnant point and to keep moving and progressing for word to enhance the current situation.

The alignment of CARD –CAADP- can contribute to implementation of NRDS / CARD in my country through:-

- 1- Providing technical assistance that can help enhancing the current situation.
- 2- Provide us with some solutions for the recent bottle neck issues that retard the development of our rice sector.
- 3- Establishment of modern rice project to be as successful project and later reconstructed with local efforts at the different states of our country.

Challenges on promoting the alignment between the CAADP and the CARD / NRDS process.

That for the following reasons:-

- 1- In appropriate institutional setup.
- 2- Lack of technical knowhow.
- 3- Lack of financial support.
- 4- Lack of awareness, because rice is still a new crop in Sudan.

The measures that have already taken to address the above listed challenges and to solve the bottle neck issues were:-

- 1- Establishment of the national rice project, with steering committee, technical committee and a separate bud jet.
- 2- First and second rice sector development forum.
- 3- Nomination of the relevant departments and societies with specific responsibilities.
- 4- Since CARD /NRDS aiming to double the rice production by the year 2018 –we have still an opportunity of 4 years to achieve that goal , because we have some tools that can help us:-
 - 1- We have more than 400 extensionists, well trained on upland rice production.
 - 2- The availability of land, water and suitable weather for rice production.
 - 3- The numerous successful trials in rice production showed the high productivity and the profitability of the crop.

At this moment, we request CARD kindly to study rice situation in Sudan and then advice us to start effectively and efficiently in promoting our rice sector.

CARD secretariat as well as CARD steering committee members, can play a very important role in reflecting to donors the challenges facing the rice sector development in Sudan , they can help us in many ways .

More over they can advice for providing our country with a full membership in CARD .