

High- Quality Rice for Africa

Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)

The Challenge

Rice is one of the most important staple foods in Africa. Demand is rapidly increasing: The population is growing, people are moving to the cities and consumer behaviour is changing 90% of all locally cultivated rice is produced on small fields with an acreage of less than one hectare.

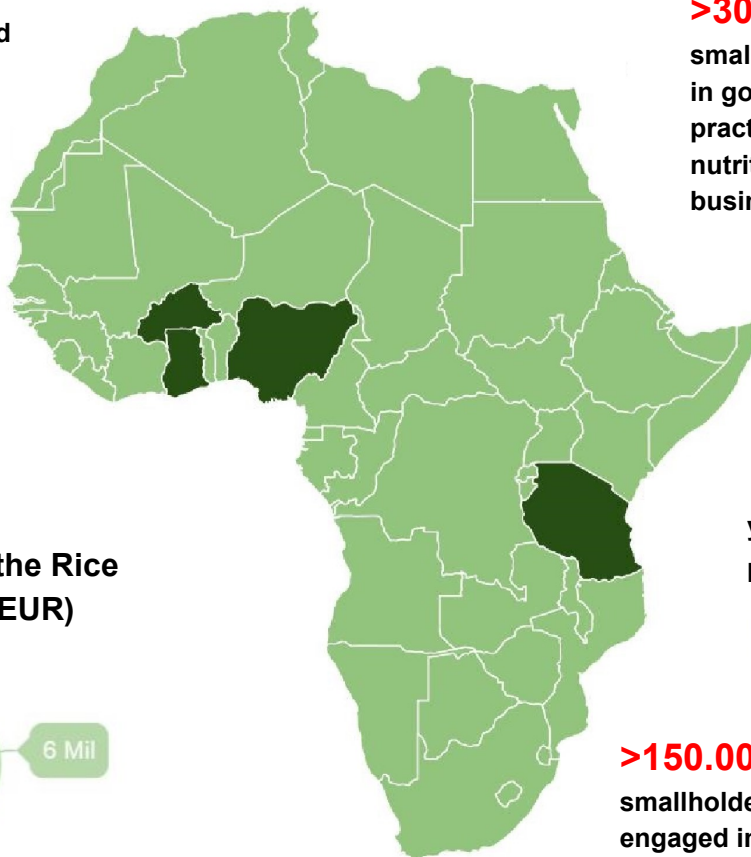
Local production does not meet the continent's demand for rice. Average yields in sub-Saharan Africa are the lowest in the world: They are either stagnating or even declining. There is lack of knowledge of modern farming techniques, high-quality seeds, fertilisers and crop protection practices. Necessary infrastructure for efficient storage, transport and processing is also often not existent. Given that prices for their products are low, smallholder farmers are left only with low income margins. As a result, most of the rural population in rice producing areas lives in poverty or even below the poverty line.

Commissioned by	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Walmart Foundation
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project Region	Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Tanzania
Duration	11/2013—12/2017

Achievements so far...

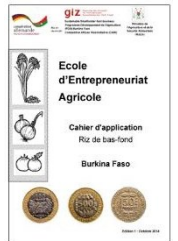
>100.000

beneficiaries have increased their income and improved food security

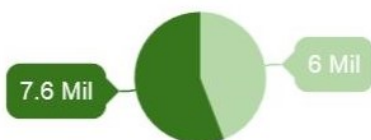


>30.000

smallholders trained in good agricultural practices, improved nutrition and farmer business school



Investment into the Rice Value Chain (EUR)



■ CARI contribution (44.12%)
■ Partner Investments (55.88%)

yields/ha increased by up to **60%**



>150.000

smallholders engaged in 4 countries



>30% female farmers

Supported by:



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



Implemented by:



Our Approach

The Competitive African Rice Initiative helps smallholder rice farmers to increase their incomes and to supply their families and the whole region with high-quality rice. Up to now, on average smallholders earn less than two USD per day. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Walmart Foundation, GIZ is implementing the CARI project in four African countries.

In Ghana and Tanzania, CARI is working with local implementing partners, such as Technoserve, Kilimo Trust, and John A. Kufuor Foundation. The aim is to increase productivity and improve the quality of smallholder farmers' rice produce. Local processing and marketing companies benefit from a reliable supply with high-quality rice. Local buying companies (millers) enter into constant supply relationships with smallholders. Local businesses gain better access to financial services, while national policies create more favourable framework conditions for the production of and the trade with rice. This way, a stable value chain is developed, from the rice farmer to the miller and distributor. This benefits the entire sector.

Special emphasis is put on cooperation with local companies. CARI promotes the commitment of local companies through a fund: Rice millers receive funds which they have to match with their own resources. This way, smallholder farmers are trained on how to organize their businesses according to market demand. In addition, smallholder farmers receive advance payments from rice millers in order to be able to buy high-quality seeds as well as fertilizers and agrochemicals.

Benefits

In Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Tanzania, more than 150,000 male and female farmers have been reached for the gradual integration into value chains as suppliers of local rice millers on fair terms. Long-term supply contracts ensure smallholders' access to reliable markets as well as transparent and fair prices. The processing companies benefit from a constant supply. Training on good agricultural practices, such as adapted soil preparation, harvest and postharvest techniques, improved methods of irrigation, integrated pest management as well as high quality seeds, provide for higher yields and better quality in the mid-term. As a result, the long-term incomes and overall living conditions of smallholder farmers will improve.



Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered Offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)
11b, Mousa Traore Crescent, Asokoro Abuja Nigeria
T: +234-(0)9096398249
I: www.giz.de

On Behalf of: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Author: Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess
Layout and Design: Anna Thinius, Yahaya Dauda

I: www.cari-project.org

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