



***IMPROVING AND SCALING UP THE SYSTEM OF RICE  
INTENSIFICATION IN WEST AFRICA (SRI-WAAPP)***

**REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOP  
DAKAR, 7-8 DECEMBER, 2015**

**SUMMARY REPORT**



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## **1. Introduction**

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was developed in Madagascar in 1983-1984 by Father Henri de LAULANIE, a French agronomist. It is an innovation that changes conventional rice growing practices, mainly by allowing rice plants to better demonstrate their production potential. In practical terms, it involves producing rice with fewer seeds, less water, and fewer mineral fertilizers on a rich organic and well-ventilated soil.

A commissioned regional project entitled "Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification in West Africa" (SRI-WAAPP), submitted to WECARD/CORAF by Mali's National Center of Specialization in Rice (CNS-Riz) at the request of countries covered by West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP), was approved and officially launched in July/August 2013. It covers the thirteen (13) WAAPP members countries for a 3-year first phase (January 2014 – December 2016).

Four (4) regional workshops have been organized since the project start-up: in February 2014 in Porto Novo (Benin) at the Songhaï Centre; in August 2014 in Kpalimé (Togo); in February 2015 in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire); and in December 2015 in Dakar (Senegal). These workshops were attended by representatives of all the thirteen (13) WAAPP countries and the Regional Project Coordination team – CNS-Riz/Institute of Rural Economy (IER) and the System of Rice Intensification International Network and Resources Center (SRI-Rice), based at Cornell University in the United States.

During the workshops, and particularly those of Abidjan and Dakar, implementation and monitoring difficulties were identified and solutions proposed to address them. However, these problems are still being encountered. With recent news that the project must terminate earlier than anticipated – in June, 2016 – this workshop was organized to determine the implementation status of activities, and to collect available data.

## **2. Objectives**

The overall goal of the workshop was to implement the project activities in the countries. The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review the implementation status of data collection, identify constraints, and provide solutions;
- Review the status of SRI baseline situation, as well as identify constraints and propose an implementation plan;
- Identify bottlenecks and solutions for implementing the monitoring and evaluation system at all levels (champions, facilitators and M & E Officers);
- Define a restructuring plan, accompanied by an action plan for each country to ensure project completion in June 2016.

## **3. Expected Outcomes**

Three outcomes were expected from the workshop:

- A detailed review of M&E system implementation since project start-up for each country;
- Bottlenecks are identified, and solutions proposed for timely reporting;
- A restructuring plan, accompanied by an action plan, is available for each country.

## **4. Conduct of the Workshop**

The workshop took place at the Grand Theatre of Dakar from 7 to 8 December, 2015.

It started with the welcome and registration of participants, as well as installation of officials. The first day was marked by the official opening and introduction of the participants of the various delegations, in accordance with the set agenda.

The workshop was attended by delegations from all the thirteen (13) current member countries of the WAAPP, the Regional SRI-WAAPP Project Coordination team (CNS-Riz/IER and SRI-Rice), WECARD/CORAF, and the WAAPP 2A Coordination of Senegal (WAAPP-SN), which chaired the workshop. The attendance list is attached.

### **4.1 Opening Ceremony**

Given the technical nature of the workshop, the protocol for the opening ceremony was reduced. However, it was graced by the presence of the WECARD Program Officer, the WAAPP-SN Administrative and Financial Officer representing the Coordinator of WAAPP Senegal, the Director of SRI-Rice (Cornell University, USA), and the Coordinator of CNS/Riz (Mali). Speeches were delivered by the presidium members, with the welcome address given by the SRI-WAAPP National Facilitator of the host country.

The representative of the WAAPP Senegal Coordinator, in his welcome address, welcomed all the delegations on behalf of the Senegalese authorities, and indicated the availability of his team to make the participants' stay in Senegal pleasant.

The Regional SRI-WAAPP Project Coordinator in his speech reiterated the context within which the Dakar workshop, which was not included in the 2015 Action Plan of the sub-regional project, was organized. He underscored the urgency of the workshop, given that the project was now scheduled to be completed in June 2016, instead of the December 2016 date that was originally indicated in the contract between WECARD and Mali's Institute of Rural Economy (IER), which hosts CNS-RIZ.

The workshop continued with:

1. Election of the workshop bureau, comprising:
  - Chairman: Mr. Moustapha BARRY, Disbursement Officer, WAAPP Senegal;
  - First Reporter: Abdoulaye SY, National Facilitator, SRI-WAAPP SENEGAL;
  - Second Reporter: Adewale NAFIU, SRI Consultant, WAAPP NIGERIA
2. Presentation and adoption of the agenda for the two days and general information about the organization;
3. Introduction of the participants;
4. Reiteration of the expected outcomes.

### **4.2 Presentations and Discussions**

#### **4.2.1 Day 1: 7 December, 2015**

##### **4.2.1.1 Presentation by the Regional Project Coordinator**

The presentations started with that of Dr. Gaoussou Traoré, the CNS-Riz Coordinator of IER Mali, the Regional Project Coordinator, which focused on data for the various rice ecologies of the sub-region: direct and indirect beneficiaries, yields, and area covered by SRI. He

showed that on these ecologies, the practice of SRI produced higher yields than conventional practice, with a difference of at least 50% on average.

The data presentation was not exhaustive and concerned only seven countries, since they were collected in a hurry at the request of WECARD.

Following the presentation, some of the participants wanted information on the absence of their data in the Coordinator's presentation, the yields of rainfed ecologies, and the proposal to improve the presentation with interactive maps.

The WECARD Program Officer also provided answers on WECARD's request to have scalable data on the project and for better illustration of the map's legends. The Regional Coordinator and the countries concerned gave satisfactory answers to the questions asked.

#### **4.2.1.2 Study on the SRI Baseline Situation**

The Director of the SRI-Rice Center of Cornell University drew attention to the various stages in the conduct of the baseline study, with various workshops on methodology, particularly that of Cotonou where the countries agreed to a completion deadline of September 2015. Dr. Styger emphasized the facility provided by ArcGIS Online with the possibility of collecting geo-referenced and downloadable data for processing in Excel.

She reiterated the five themes of the baseline study, namely:

- Rice production in the country;
- The SRI baseline in the country;
- The general baseline for the target zones;
- The SRI baseline in the target zones;
- The survey on rice production systems for each target zone.

Each country was expected to indicate the progress of the baseline situation, the specific problems encountered, and the solutions proposed. Furthermore, each country was requested to prepare a revised action plan, and indicate the date of a national workshop to validate the baseline report.

Subsequently, Dr. Traoré reiterated the need to conduct a diagnosis of the situation in each country so as to identify the appropriate solution. The diagnosis, when shared, would enable some countries to find solutions to their problems.

He also gave reasons why the Regional Coordination Unit should receive a baseline situation document before its validation by a national workshop bringing together all the rice cultivation stakeholders in the country.

After Dr. Traoré, the countries presented the progress of their baseline situations:

- TOGO:
  - The study is ongoing and the consultant is analyzing the data;
  - The draft report will be available at the end of December.
- BENIN:
  - The study started at the beginning of November, and data processing is ongoing. The results for ten (10) municipalities are available;

- It will be completed before Christmas. The first draft will be available before 25 December, and the final report will be available not later than 15 January 2016.
- LIBERIA:
  - The consultant and data collection workers have been selected, and the target area identified;
  - The National Coordination is facing financial difficulties;
  - The Regional Coordination requests that WECARD lobby for WAAP Liberia to finance the study, failing which WECARD should authorize the Regional Coordination to finance the baseline study for Liberia;
  - If funding is made available to WAAPP/Liberia, the document will be ready in February 2015;
  - The required budget is US \$15,000.
- GHANA
  - The consultant has been recruited and the data collected;
  - The interim report is available;
  - The final report will be available not later than 21 January, 2016.
- BURKINA FASO
  - The terms of reference (TOR) were prepared by the National Facilitator and transmitted to WAAPP-BF Coordination in April, 2015. The consultant has been identified, but his/her contract has not yet been signed for the first terms of reference (TORs), and the second TORs have not yet been validated by WAAPP-BF;
  - WAAPP-BF Coordination indicated that the contract procedure for the consultant is underway; the study could start at the beginning of January, 2016, and the document could be ready in February;
  - The consultant has started working on the literature review and the data capture model; the attention of WAAPP-BF was drawn to the second TORs;
  - The validation workshop is scheduled for mid-February, 2016.
- GUINEA
  - On the whole, the study has not yet started; the National Facilitator (NF) has been selected as the consultant, and he indicated that he had already completed Themes 1 and 2 (Theme 1 is finalized; Theme 2 data is available);
  - Financial resources are not currently available;
  - The NF was requested to propose a budget to be submitted to the Regional Coordination.
- COTE D'IVOIRE
  - The baseline study has been completed;
  - The report has been submitted to the National and Regional Coordinations;
  - Validation is scheduled for early January (not later than 15 January, 2016).
- SENEGAL

- The consultant has signed his contract, and will receive his advance payment during the week of 14 December 2015;
- Data from the target area are already available on the ArcGIS Online platform for the second part of the study;
- The draft report will be ready no later than 15 January, 2016;
- The validation workshop is scheduled for the end of January, 2016.
- GAMBIA
  - The literature review is available;
  - The consultant's contract has not yet been signed;
  - WAAPP-Gambia is facing budgetary constraints;
  - The draft report will be available in mid-January if resources are mobilized.
- MALI
  - The Bank's No Objection Opinion is expected for the consultant's contract in mid-December;
  - If resources are mobilized, the report will be available in mid-January, 2016, and the validation workshop is scheduled for mid-February, 2016.
- NIGER
  - The consultant's contract has not yet been signed;
  - The rice baseline study for Niger was validated in May 2015 (a basic document for the SRI baseline situation serves as a working base);
  - Budget constraints with WAAPP-NR were noted but resolved;
  - The draft report will be available in mid-February, 2016;
  - Validation is scheduled for end-February, 2016.
- SIERRA LEONE
  - The consultant has been identified, but WAAPP-SL faces constraints in funding the activities;
  - Support was requested from the Regional Coordination.
- NIGERIA
  - WAAPP funding constraints at end of the phase were noted;
  - The Regional Coordination was requested to finance the Nigeria baseline study;
  - The draft report will be available by mid-February, 2016 if financial resources are available, and the final report will be available at the end of February, 2016.

#### **4.2.1.3 Monitoring and Evaluation**

After the lunch break, Dr. Traoré reiterated the need to comply with the time frames for submitting the activity reports. The activity monitoring sheets have been adapted to the Survey123 software on ArcGIS Online so as to facilitate filling out, transmitting and sharing of data. All the information had been given at the August, 2015 training workshop organized in Dakar on ArcGIS online.

Dr. Styger presented the evaluation framework informing the project monitoring indicators.

Each country was requested to evaluate the indicators information level, and propose a plan for addressing uninformed indicators.

**The indicators information status by country is as follows:**

Countries	Information Status/Constraints
NIGERIA	Funding constraints for field data collection
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No field monitoring activities</li> <li>• Economic data not yet available</li> <li>• Economic data collection is ongoing and will be available in two months</li> </ul>
SIERRA LEONE	Accountability of the M&E Officer and SRI actors
NIGER	M&E difficulties due to lack of funding
BURKINA FASO	No sheet submitted due to failure to fund activities
MALI	Data are available despite the security constraints in northern Mali
GAMBIA	Forms completed and submitted
SENEGAL	Sheets submitted; difficulties in opening Form A with Survey 123 on smartphones
GUINEA	No sheets submitted
GHANA	Two questions on yields and income not currently available
LIBERIA	Data collected on limit of available resources; available data are shared with the Regional Coordination
BENIN	No forms sent; current data until June 2016 will be collected
TOGO	Resource constraints on monitoring/evaluation

After the presentations by each country, comments focused on the need to have time to process collected data, and on solutions to be found to solve specific problems in some countries. The Regional Coordination was also requested to consolidate country situations so that each country is considered in relation to the others.

It should be noted that the quarterly report is expected to be sent periodically, in addition to the survey123 forms submitted.

**In conclusion for the day, the 2014 data and those for 2015 should be submitted not later than the end of February 2016.**

#### **4.2.2 Day 2: 8 December, 2015**

The second day of the workshop started at 8.35am, on a note of cheerfulness of the Regional SRI-WAAPP Project Coordinator, who provided guidelines for preparing the 2016 country annual work plans and budgets (AWPBs).

He suggested that for countries whose projects will be completed in June 2016, they should limit their planning to May, 2016. For WAAPP 2A countries, namely Senegal, Mali and



Ghana, the planning should be continue through December, 2016.

#### **4.2.2.1 . Preparation of the 2016 AWPBs**

The delegations from each country came together in a working group to fine-tune their 2016 SRI AWPBs. After the coffee break, each country made a presentation in the plenary session.

Following the country presentations, the Director of SRI-Rice made a presentation on the planned 2016 AWPB activities of the Regional Project Coordination over the December 2015-June 2016 period.

The Regional Coordination provided details on the scheduled workshops:

- Mechanization / equipment at end of March, 2016 in Burkina Faso;
- Project closing workshop at the beginning of June, 2016 in Mali.

Dr. Styger underscored the need to produce a technical SRI practice manual adapted to each country, in line with the format provided by the Regional Coordination. Support activities for interested countries will be carried out only upon request by countries that specify the activities and provide corresponding budgets. She also provided clarifications on activities relating to monitoring and evaluation, as well as the project impact assessment to be conducted.

Dr. Traoré then provided information on the making of an SRI documentary film, in line with the methodology for making the film on WAAPP activities. The reporting team will visit the countries identified by the Coordination. For the other countries not covered by field reports, the recording crew was present at the workshop and interviews were to take place at the end of the workshop. A book to summarize the achievements and "success stories" of the project will also be written, and countries will be requested to provide articles and other written information available at their level.

#### **4.2.2.2 Brainstorming on continuing the project for a second phase**

Mr. Jean Paul Lorng, Deputy Coordinator of WAAPP-Cote d'Ivoire, facilitated the brainstorming session on actions to be taken in a second phase of the project. The proposals are summarized in the recommendations below.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations were made:

#### **5.1 On the baseline studies**

- For the Regional Coordination and WECARD: support countries facing difficulties in financing their baseline studies;
- For each country: complete the baseline study validations no later than February, 2016.

#### **5.2 On a second phase and sustainability of actions**

- For WECARD
  - ✓ Continue activities and sharing of experiences on SRI through CNS- Riz;
  - ✓ Look for multilateral technical and financial partners for continuation of SRI financing, particularly with the World Bank during negotiations on the

second phase of WAAPP 1B and 1C countries.

- For ROPPA
  - ✓ Use SRI in rice advocacy as a tool for poverty reduction and improvement of ECOWAP incomes;
  - ✓ Continue advocacy for funding of WAAPP 2B and 2C.
- For COUNTRIES
  - ✓ Raise awareness among national stakeholders by organizing meetings on consolidation of achievements;
  - ✓ Include SRI in the national rice development strategy;
  - ✓ Seek funding for scaling up in each country;
  - ✓ Include SRI activities in negotiations on the second phase of WAAPP projects for which discussions will be initiated between the Ministries of the Economy and Finance of the countries and the World Bank.

### **5.3 On institutional aspects**

- Ensure gradual transfer of SRI project activities and achievements to national agricultural advisory and extension structures;
- Ensure minimum funding by the Regional Coordination to support national institutions in charge of SRI at the country level;
- Motivate National Facilitators as is being done with their WASP counterparts.

After these recommendations, the workshop's closing ceremony was marked by speeches by the following persons:

- ❖ The Director of the SRI-Rice Center of Cornell University;
- ❖ The Coordinator of CNS-Riz Mali, the Regional Project Coordinator, who welcomed the achievement of workshop objectives and commitment of the participants;
- ❖ The SRI National Facilitator of Senegal, on behalf of the National Coordinator of WAAPP-SN, thanked the countries for their active participation and wished the participants a safe return to their respective countries.