

MDG 5: Improve maternal health

The protein content of some of the NERICAs has been found to be 25% higher (10% protein for NERICA versus 8% protein for Asian rice in the market).

As the NERICAs have higher protein content than other rice varieties and are more nutritious than many of the traditional staples, farmers growing NERICAs have improved their diets. An improved diet leads to better health and there is a greater chance that a healthy mother will give birth to a healthy child than a weakened mother.

MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Benefits from NERICA lie not only in improved food security, better diets and higher incomes for resource-poor farmers, but also through less pressure on the environment.

Since some of the NERICA varieties seem to cope well with less water in drought-prone environments, farmers do not need to resort to slash-and-burn agriculture.

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

As the largest employer in sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture is particularly affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The agricultural sector has a great potential to help mitigate the consequences of HIV/AIDS on farmers. For example, the NERICA varieties give improved yield and are less susceptible to local stresses, so that the labor burden is lessened.

The CGIAR Systemwide initiative on HIV/AIDS and Agriculture is promoting NERICA as part of its program to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on farmers.

MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Rice imports are draining more than US\$ 1.5 billion from precious foreign exchange earnings in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Projections by Africa Rice Center show that a 20% increase in NERICA planting in SSA countries could result in a 5% reduction in the rice import bill.

A range of partnership models is being explored to accelerate the NERICA dissemination. Today more than 700,000 ha are under upland NERICA production in SSA.

Rice Research in Africa Addressing Millennium Development Goals

About Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)

The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is a leading pan-African research organization with a mission to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa through research, development and partnership activities. AfricaRice is a member of the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It is also an autonomous intergovernmental research association of African member countries.

The Center was created in 1971 by 11 African countries. Today its membership comprises 24 countries, covering West, Central, East and North African regions, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

AfricaRice temporary headquarters is based in Cotonou, Benin; research staff are also based in Senegal, Nigeria, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire.

For more information visit: www.AfricaRice.org



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AfricaRice

Rice Research in Africa



Addressing Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

AfricaRice and MDG

NERICA and MDG

Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is the premier research Center for rice development in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In association with its partners, it is contributing to achieving the MDGs in SSA through a greater focus on links between rice research and:

- ▶ rural livelihoods
- ▶ poverty reduction
- ▶ food security
- ▶ health
- ▶ women empowerment
- ▶ schooling
- ▶ mitigation of HIV/AIDS effects
- ▶ partnership for development

The New Rices for Africa (NERICAs), developed by the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) and its partners, are bringing hope to more than 30 million smallholder rice farmers in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Impact studies show that NERICAs are helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals across SSA.

The NERICA Advantage

- ▶ Earlier maturity (by 50-70 days earlier than farmers' varieties)
- ▶ Resistance to local stresses
- ▶ Higher yields (up to 6 tonnes per ha in uplands under favorable conditions)
- ▶ Higher protein content (by 25%)



"NERICA is very valuable in the hungry season, because it is ready to be harvested, while the traditional rice is not yet mature."
- Doto Leontine, NERICA farmer in Benin

"The new rice has changed our living. Our incomes have increased. We have bought clothes, a house and a bicycle."
- NERICA farmer in Uganda

"With NERICA, I can feed my family, pay my kids' school fees, and be sure of having food all year."
-- Mamady Douno, NERICA farmer in Guinea

"Growing these rice varieties is a very profitable activity which brings enough revenue to me."
- Abeba Allasane, NERICA farmer from Togo

"From the cash we get after selling NERICA, I help my husband in providing food for my children and to pay their school and medical fees, and also to buy clothes for them."
- Abeba Allasane, NERICA farmer from Togo

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

NERICA, whose large-scale diffusion began only recently driven by farmer participation, has already demonstrated significant impacts on poverty alleviation.

In Benin, for example, increased yields as a result of NERICA adoption have increased women farmers' incomes by \$337 per hectare of NERICA cultivated. The shorter duration of the NERICAs is one of its major attractions for farmers.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The majority of upland rice farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are women, who account for:

- ▶ 52% labor in land preparation
- ▶ 80% in sowing
- ▶ 88% in weeding
- ▶ 80% in harvesting

NERICA rice was developed mainly to help women farmers, who like its characteristics such as weed competitiveness and short duration and high yield.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

A survey conducted by the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) in partnership with the national program of Benin showed that in farming families, who had adopted NERICAs, there was:

- ▶ A 6% increase in child school enrollment;
- ▶ A 3% increase in school retention rate;
- ▶ About \$20 increase per child in school expenditure

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

A survey conducted by the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) in partnership with the national program of Benin showed that farming families, who had adopted NERICAs, there was:

- ▶ A 2% reduction in frequency of child sickness
- ▶ A 5% increase in attendance at hospital when children fell ill
- ▶ About US\$12 increase in family spending on child health care

Better harvests with more yield put extra cash in NERICA farmers' pockets to fund schooling, medical care and better diet.

