



RICE: APRA'S CONTRIBUTION TO INFORMING AND INFLUENCING POLICY DEBATES AROUND RICE IN EAST AFRICA

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	3
Acronyms	4
Executive summary	5
1 Introduction	7
2 Outcome statement: What has changed?	8
3 Context: the changing role of rice in East Africa	9
East Africa	9
Ethiopia	9
Tanzania	10
4 Contribution claim: What is APRA's contribution or role in this change?	12
Ethiopia	12
Tanzania	15
East Africa	16
5 Robustness of contribution claim	19
6 Lessons learnt	20
Annex 1 – Key informants	21
Annex 2 – Engagement activities	22
Annex 3 – Events	25
Annex 4 – Publications	28
Annex 5 – Media mentions	34

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ACRONYMS

AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa
APRA	Agricultural Policy Research in Africa
AfricaRice	Africa Rice Center
ARD-PRC	Agriculture & Rural Development Policy Research Center, Ethiopia
CABE	Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship
CARD	Coalition for African Rice Development
EAC	East African Community
EARC	East Africa Rice Conference 2021
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
ENRDS	Ethiopian National Rice Development Strategy
FAC	Future Agricultures Consortium
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MEDA	Mennonite Economic Development Associates
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NRDS	National Rice Development Strategy
NRRTC	National Rice Research and Training Center, Ethiopia
PIPA	Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis
PSI	Policy Study Institute, Ethiopia
RRDS	Regional Rice Development Strategy
SRI	System of Rice Intensification

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Rice production across Africa varies in many aspects due to socio-political, climatic, and environmental differences in the region. The research and outreach activities of the Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) programme of the Future Agricultures Consortium (FAC) aimed to generate policy-relevant insights on more inclusive pathways to agricultural commercialisation, particularly in East Africa, where in-depth mixed methods research was conducted by partners. These efforts resulted in the sharing of new insights on rice commercialisation with national policymakers and other stakeholders in Ethiopia and Tanzania, and the coordination of organisations to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration, and communication.

On a regional level, APRA initiated, contributed, and co-convened the East Africa Rice Conference (EARC), held in May 2021, with colleagues from the Coalition for Africa Rice Development (CARD), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice). This three-day hybrid (live and online) event attracted over 550 stakeholders, and brought together institutions from the East Africa region (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda) and other sub-Saharan countries to discuss challenges and opportunities for inclusive and sustainable rice sector development. The conference resulted in a plethora of outcomes in various countries, not just the ones APRA was directly engaging with. The most outstanding outcomes are the sustained partnership between the organising partners and the formation of new collaborations with highly influential institutions and networks across the region.

On a national level, APRA research identified important changes taking place in rice commercialisation, particularly in the Fogera Plain area of Amhara Region, Ethiopia (a major rice growing area), which were communicated through a range of channels. APRA's approach to analysing the changing dynamics of rice production, processing, and marketing in the Fogera Plain contributed to: (i) informing the design of different rice related public strategic documents, including the National Rice Sector Development Strategy (2020–2030), the consideration of rice among target

commodities in the National Agricultural Investment Plan (2021–2030), and the on-going design of National Rice Flagship programme (2022–2027); (ii) enabling comparison of changing trends and emerging opportunities for rice sector development; and (iii) improving the capacity of researchers to implement complementary research in other parts of the country. APRA's awareness creation of the importance of rice has resulted in this grain being promoted as a 'strategic commodity' by the Government of Ethiopia and also in the design of rice sector development projects, like the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-supported EthioRice project (2022–2027).

In Tanzania, APRA mainly worked in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region; an important rice producing area in the south-east. The focus of this research aimed to understand the differential effects of rice commercialisation for small- and medium-scale producers and processors. A key part of analysis focused on analysing gender roles in commercialisation and identifying opportunities for women's inclusion and empowerment in rice value chains. While this is an on-going process supported by many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and research institutions, APRA has specifically highlighted the status of women's empowerment in rice and agriculture and the need to improve their inclusion. Women are considered knowledgeable about rice variety traits that are marketable and have been included in the respective decision-making processes regarding varietal selection.

At a policy level, APRA researchers influenced the development of several *National Rice Development Strategies*, which were recently completed or were under review at the time of publication. They also provided input into the preparation of the East African Community's (EAC) *Regional Rice Development Strategy*.

Overall, it can be concluded that APRA's contribution in informing conversations and coordination around the regional prioritisation of rice in East Africa has been successful and effective. Furthermore, APRA was a main contributor to Ethiopia's National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) and played an

important role in highlighting the current, marginalised, status of women in the value chain. It has also informed conversations about how to address this problem to improve women's inclusion and empowerment in the rice sector in Tanzania.

Lessons:

Lesson 1: For informing and influencing policy and practice, individual credibility and connections matter. In Ethiopia, the APRA lead researcher was already involved, well known, and trusted in the agricultural sector. He was able to rapidly assemble an experienced group of researchers with good connections to decisionmakers within government. This enabled the APRA team to feed rice value chain research findings into the decision-making system at times when key decisions were being made. Government officials, recognising their expertise, asked for advice from team members and appointed them to advisory positions. In contrast, the Tanzanian rice team had to work hard to build connections with local media and local government officials in order to communicate their research findings.

Lesson 2: To gain traction in influencing the rice policy processes, it may be necessary to align the different priorities of government and APRA. For instance, APRA research was focussed on identifying and analysing pathways to inclusive commercialisation. In both Ethiopia and Tanzania, government interest in rice was focussed more on the macro issues of import substitution or export growth. Building on their Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA) approach, APRA researchers gained government attention by addressing the macro issues, while still including inclusivity issues of gender, youth, and smallholders' needs.

Lesson 3: Partnerships and platforms are important for scale and sustainability. The PIPA process identified potential partners and platforms. APRA worked successfully with existing and emerging rice programmes and rice-focussed research and development organisations at national, regional, and international levels, often through jointly hosting events to create events and platforms for conversations and communication. A notable example was the jointly organised 2021 EARC, at which APRA research findings were prominently featured and discussed.

Lesson 4: Research and influencing programmes need an appropriate combination of long-term planning and shorter-term flexibility. Observing the drivers and outcomes of pathways to commercialisation

over time was central to the APRA research design. However, there was enough flexibility to also address relevant emerging issues, such as the importance of rice processors, rice export barriers, climate change, and the effects of COVID-19. Using a political economy lens to describe the overall value chain can provide a unified framework to different and changing research components.

Lesson 5: Research can identify perverse incentives and weak linkages in the value chain that act as barriers. APRA studies at country and regional levels have been able to provide insights into key obstacles to improving rice sector performance along the value chain, including factors inhibiting increasing productivity, improving the quality of rice sold, minimising breakages, and getting access to improved processing technologies. Further study may then be required to identify the best ways to overcome the identified barriers.

1 INTRODUCTION



APRA¹ was a six-year (2014–2022) comparative research programme across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Interdisciplinary research teams aimed to generate high-quality evidence and policy-relevant insights on more inclusive pathways to agricultural commercialisation. The research teams are supported by Information, Communication, and Engagement (ICE), and Applied Learning on Relevance and Effectiveness (ALRE) teams. Programme communications, including media engagement, were planned by the research teams through several rounds of PIPA and Evidence-to-Policy sessions.²

This outcome study explores whether there is sufficient evidence of discussions and coordination activities being informed by APRA research in the context of rice regionally in East Africa, nationally in Ethiopia, and at the district level in Tanzania.

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- 1 APRA was a FAC programme; a research network of African, UK, and international scholars working on the political economy of agricultural policy processes in sub-Saharan Africa, which is based in the Institute of Development Studies, UK.
 - 2 PIPA – Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis.

2 OUTCOME STATEMENT: WHAT HAS CHANGED?



The APRA rice outcome claim is:

Rice has been a focus commodity across APRA research. The evidence generated is informing conversations and coordination around the regional prioritisation of rice in East Africa, the role of rice in Ethiopia's national development strategy, and how rice commercialisation is supporting women's empowerment at the district level in Tanzania.

To assess the anticipated changes regionally, as well as nationally, we have investigated APRA's potential contribution, the policy influence observed, and the outcomes of this influence.

3 CONTEXT: THE CHANGING ROLE OF RICE IN EAST AFRICA

East Africa

In EAC, all member countries have completed their first or second drafts of their respective NRDS³, with support from the CARD programme – although countries are at different stages.³ For example, Uganda has not yet completed their revision, while Mozambique has their second draft in the review process. Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania have all developed an updated drafts of their strategies. This second generation of NRDS was necessary due to some countries changing their rice development approaches, or the first generation of the strategy not progressing as planned due to unforeseen changes. These NRDS resulted in more investments from both governments and the private sector in rice sector activities at the national level. In addition, it is expected that the countries will make further investments with the second generation NRDS supported by Phase 2 of CARD. As more data are collected and the background assumptions of the strategies are updated, new elements will be added – including expanding and strengthening the focus on agroprocessing and trade in both domestic and regional markets.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, rice production has been slowly increasing in recent years. However, climate variability, the poor performance of the agricultural sector, and rapidly increasing rice consumption has led to an overall decline in national rice self-sufficiency. The extent of rice self-sufficiency decreased from about 76 per cent in 2008 to 24 per cent in 2019.⁴

While increased consumer demand is being met by rice imports, for a country like Ethiopia, which is dependent on exports of agricultural products to generate foreign currency, the burden that rice imports create is a serious challenge. Data from the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority indicates that rice imports increased from 22,500 to 533,620t between 2008 and 2019, which has led to an immense increase in expenditure from US\$12.07 million to US\$215.30 million during this period. Unless appropriate policy and development measures are implemented, this trend is expected to continue.

The NRDS (2010–2020) indicates that Ethiopia has about 30 million ha of land suitable for rain-fed rice production. In addition, with 10 river basins, the country has the potential for a further 3.7 million ha of land where irrigated rice can be produced. The potential of growing rice in rain-fed and irrigated agroecosystems of Ethiopia's lowland and intermediate areas demonstrates an opportunity for enhanced, inclusive rice commercialisation and poverty reduction in these areas.

Using a combination of research approaches – including qualitative and questionnaire-based surveys – APRA research analysed different livelihood trajectories ('stepping in', 'stepping out', 'stepping up', 'hanging in', and 'dropping out')⁵ of households participating in rice commercialisation in the Dera, Fogera, and Libo Kemkem districts in the Fogera Plain (the major rice producing region in the country, supplying over 70 per cent of annual production). The research also analysed the historical trends of rice commercialisation

3 The goal of Phase I of CARD (2000–2018) was to support the efforts of African countries to double rice production on the continent to 28mt per annum within 10 years. CARD Phase 2 began in 2019, with a renewed target of further doubling of rice production in sub-Saharan Africa from 28 to 56mt by 2030. See: <https://riceforafrica.net/>.

4 Alemu, D. and Thompson, J. (2020) *The Emerging Importance of Rice as a Strategic Crop in Ethiopia*. APRA Working Paper 44. Brighton: Future Agricultures Consortium. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15739>

5 More detailed definition of these five livelihood trajectories can be found here: <https://www.future-agricultures.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/APRA-Simple-Brochure-web.pdf>

in the region and how these contributed to agrarian change (changes in farming systems, land tenure, etc.) and impacted on rural transformation, as well as the political-economic factors that have affected the development of pathways to commercialisation over time.^{6,7}

APRA engaged with a variety of key stakeholders in order to raise awareness of the potential for enhancing grain quality, promoting inclusive rice production and commercialisation, and engaging policymakers in supporting an enabling environment. APRA was predominately engaged with the National Rice Secretariat of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the National Rice Technical Committee, the National Rice Research Programme, JICA's EthioRice project, and with NGOs such as Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and AgroBiG.

Agrarian change

In recent years, there has been a considerable shift in land use on the Fogera Plain from traditional crops (such as Niger seed and teff) and livestock (especially the Fogera cattle breed) to other high-value commodities, including pulses and vegetables, which are integrated with the rice production system. This shift is mainly associated with the commercial viability (higher productivity and unit price) of these crops, their compatibility with prevailing farming systems, and consumer food habits, such as including rice flour (made from broken rice) when making *injera* (Ethiopian flatbread). Rice commercialisation has also played a crucial role in stimulating the land market, mainly through shared farming and renting. Recognising the emergence of the land market, a regulation has recently been put in place to manage the different forms of land use transfers within the overall policy of land administration.

Labour market

Rice production is labour-intensive and, with the development of rice commercialisation, increased demand for labour has contributed to the development of a labour market in the Fogera Plain. The labourers are

mainly from the South Gonder (97 per cent) and North Gonder (3 per cent) zones of the Amhara region, and the market offers a wage rate ranging from 80 to 120 Birr (about US\$2.50 to US\$4) per day depending on the type of work and distance from Wereta town – the administrative capital. However, with the development of job opportunities in urban and semi-urban areas, the supply of labour to rural areas with the current wage rates is expected to decline in the coming years, which will have a negative impact on rice production due to high labour costs. This demands the development of labour-saving technologies and practices, along with the promotion of the mechanisation of rice production in the Fogera Plain.

Rice processors

As rice commercialisation and the number of smallholder rice farmers has increased, an associated rice processing industry has emerged in the nearby towns in Fogera Plain – with an increase from one rice processor in 1997 to 123 in 2018. Processing is associated with increased employment opportunities, and processors can take on between one and 10 jobs (either casual or permanent). However, rice processing is constrained by low-quality paddy supplied by farmers and old processing machines with limited capacity and low milling quality. Rice mills work on a free-to-use basis, but millers would retain all broken rice – which results in little to no upgrading of milling facilities, since millers use broken rice to make rice flour that, in turn, is used as a substitute grain to make *injera* and provides additional income. These factors have resulted in low competitiveness of domestic rice compared to imported rice.

Tanzania

Rice is Tanzania's third most important staple crop after maize and cassava. Produced by more than 1 million households (who are mostly small-scale farmers), it has increasingly become an important source of income over the last two decades. This can be attributed to efforts by the government, in collaboration with development agencies, to commercialise rice production to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty

6 Alemu, D., Tesfaye, A., Assaye, A., Addis D., Tadesse, T., and Thompson, J. (2018) *A Historical Analysis of Rice Commercialisation in Ethiopia: The Case of the Fogera Plain*. APRA Working Paper 18.

Brighton: Future Agricultures Consortium. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/14283>

7 Alemu, D., Thompson, J. and Assaye, A. (2021) *Rice Commercialisation, Agrarian Change and Livelihood Trajectories: Transformations on the Fogera Plain of Ethiopia*. APRA Working Paper 61.

Brighton: Future Agricultures Consortium. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16783>

among actors in the rice value chain. Alongside this, there have been efforts aimed at ensuring sustainable commercialisation and involvement of women and youth in the commercialisation process. Despite these initiatives, women and youth involvement in the rice commercialisation process is likely to be constrained by their limited access to land and financial capital.⁸

APRA findings highlighted that smallholder farmers, including women and youth, participate in commercial rice production, but with social differentiation due to varied levels of access to resources. The findings have important implications for policymakers in Tanzania as they strive to improve the welfare of smallholder farmers. Evidence highlights the importance of supporting policies that enhance access to resources, particularly financial capital and agricultural land. The lack of working capital for most women and young farmers limits their use of productivity-enhancing inputs.⁹

8 Mdoe, N., Isinika, A., Mlay, G., Boniface, G., Magomba, C., Jeckoniah, J. and Mosha, D. (2022) *Is Rice and Sunflower Commercialisation in Tanzania Inclusive for Women and Youth?* APRA Brief 33. Brighton: Future Agricultures Consortium. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/17295>

9 Mdoe, N., Isinika, A., Mlay, G., Boniface, G., Magomba, C., Jeckoniah, J. and Mosha, D. (2022) *Is Rice and Sunflower Commercialisation in Tanzania Inclusive for Women and Youth?* APRA Brief 33. Brighton: Future Agricultures Consortium. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/17295>

4 CONTRIBUTION CLAIM: WHAT IS APRA'S CONTRIBUTION OR ROLE IN THIS CHANGE?

The APRA programme started planning its policy influencing from early in the research process in 2016–2017, using the PIPA methodology as a guide. Each country team engaged in several PIPA workshops at different stages of the programme.

Ethiopia

APRA worked in Ethiopia to conduct quantitative and qualitative research to: (1) explore the long-term dynamics of agrarian change to examine how different pathways to rice commercialisation and agrarian changes have evolved over time, and how these pathways influence people's livelihood trajectories in the Fogera Plain region; and (2) assess key policy issues associated with changing patterns of agricultural commercialisation.

Collaborations and partnerships (coordination)

A meeting facilitated by the APRA team on 27 July 2020 was designed to align the support from development partners (mainly JICA) to address the challenges and exploitation of emerging opportunities rice offers. APRA's sustained engagement and support to the Ethiopian MoA includes a convening role in the National Rice Platform, which brings together public and private rice sector actors to provide strategic guidance on rice sector development and implementation.

'The proactive participation of the APRA country team in the National Rice Research and Development Technical Committee has been an enormous contribution in the revision of the NRDS II and also in the evaluation of the performance in the last 10 years of the NRDS of Ethiopia Implementation Plan' – Mr Ali Serur, MoA, Ethiopia.

Other contributions of APRA in the prioritisation of rice in Ethiopia included the close engagements formed with JICA, which linked APRA with CARD and IRRI in Nairobi. This resulted in collaborations between several representatives from these organisations who, in turn, all agreed informally to organise something together. This led to the formation of the aforementioned EARC.

APRA researchers were also engaged with the design of the National Agricultural Investment Plan (2022–2030) as technical committee members. This involvement ensured, through communication of APRA evidence, the consideration of rice among the priority five commodities (Ethiopia Country Lead interview).

Sharing research results (influencing conversations)

APRA researchers in Ethiopia worked with the National Rice Research and Development Task Force, National Rice Research and Training Center (NRRTC), and MoA, and contributed APRA findings to the National Rice Dialogue as an opportunity to influence the National Rice Research and Development Strategy (2020–2030). APRA's work initially focused on documenting the state of the rice sector in Ethiopia and identifying what opportunities there were to influence this. The APRA Ethiopia Lead served as a resource for the National Technical Committee during the design of the strategy, where the key findings of APRA were communicated to the Committee for consideration for inclusion. The APRA Country Lead is therefore recognised as resource person for the published strategy document.

Stronger investment in rice production and its commercialisation were identified as an option to reduce the burden of rice imports on the foreign currency reserve. This has resulted in the consideration of rice as a strategic commodity, along with wheat, soy, and oil seed crops, in the new initiative entitled the 'Agricultural Import Substitution Strategic Initiative', to be implemented from 2020–2025. Expanding this discourse to discuss trade issues is being explored as an additional angle to increase state interest in APRA research. This framing was further supported by research presented at the Ethiopia National Rice Platform Workshop in March 2020, which highlighted the perspectives of rice processors in relation to the lack of incentives to modernise to compete with imports. The potential of rice to dynamise local labour and land markets was also noted, along with incentivising local enterprises to call for stronger market regulations

and interventions to strengthen relationships between farmers and processors.

APRA has informed the Ethiopian National Rice Development Strategy (ENRDS) with empirical evidence of the social, economic, environmental, and policy factors that have contributed to the expansion of rice commercialisation and economic development of the Fogera Plain region. This highlights the key policy priorities to support rice intensification and commercialisation, in order to increase national self-sufficiency and meet increasing demand. One interviewee highlighted that APRA evidence had informed the National Task Force when the NRDS was being revised. Evidence of this includes many citations of APRA work in the strategy itself (Ethiopia Country Lead interview).

APRA's influence was described as follows:

'[APRA work] enable(s) (us) to identify how rice production and processing could absorb, and has the potential to absorb, a lot of manpower in the area. Rice producers are willing and ready to use improved technologies. Relatively, rice producing farmers are generating good income as compared to non-rice producing farmers' -- Degu Addis, APRA Ethiopia Researcher

Raising awareness of rice

APRA Ethiopia's working papers and presentations on rice commercialisation and livelihood pathways helped promote a greater understanding among policymakers with regards to the role of rice in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. The research also provided insights into the trends in rice processing and the impact of rice production on the labour market.

The main trends in the importance and comparative advantage of rice in Ethiopia was presented by the APRA Ethiopia team at the policy seminar '[Rice industry promotion and Import substitution in Ethiopia](#)', co-organised by MoA and JICA in March 2018. The seminar was attended by policymakers, academics, researchers, and development partners. Further to this, at a [National Rice Promotion Event](#), organised by MoA in collaboration with JICA, held in December 2018, the APRA Ethiopia team presented on *The Status of Rice Research and Development in Ethiopia: Opportunities and Challenges*. According to Mr Ali Serur of MoA's National Rice Secretariat, the APRA information helped to '*promote better understanding about the importance of rice in the country to diverse stakeholders, including policymakers at the event.*'

Sharing research results

In 2019, APRA was involved in organising a plenary session that was co-chaired by the well-known agricultural economist Dr Getachew Diriba, at the 17th [International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy](#), held from 18–20 July. Three presentations were given by APRA researchers Dawit Alemu, Agajie Tesfaye, and John Thompson on rice commercialisation opportunities and challenges in Ethiopia, as well as the impact on agrarian change and labour markets.

'Rice commercialisation is a big issue for Ethiopia. However, rice has been considered by many scholars as a minor commodity and a means for achieving food security in selected areas of the country,' states Demirew Getachew, Head of the Ethiopian Economic Association Secretariat. *'I would like institutions such as APRA to continue to participate in our international conference, which is a space not only to present research products but also to communicate information to policymakers and other stakeholders. After all, research products cannot have an impact if not well communicated.'* Overall, the APRA session helped to inform wider relevant stakeholders (policymakers, academics, and development practitioners).

APRA Ethiopia research also featured in a book published in December 2019 by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). [Advances in Rice Research and Development in Ethiopia](#) presents deliberations from an international conference held in November 2018 at the EIAR Fogera NRRTC. APRA research findings are presented in the chapters on *Rice Cultivation, Processing, and Marketing in Ethiopia*, and *Rice Commercialisation and Livelihood Pathways of Farmers in Fogera Plain*.

High-level policy engagement

Critically, the information generated from APRA research is helping to stimulate proactive engagement in policy and development processes. The APRA team has been involved in various stages of the ENRDS revision process and, as noted by Shewaye Abera, Director of the EIAR Fogera NRRTC, *'There is great interest and expectation in APRA's more detailed research findings.'*

APRA's contribution to the revision of rice policy in Ethiopia is recognised by Mr Serur, who states: *'The active engagement of the APRA team with the National Rice Secretariat has been an important contribution in enhancing provision of policy and development advisory services on rice sector development and*

policy ideas in order to lobby policymakers.' For example, the first **National Rice Platform meeting** was held on 9 March 2020, and APRA Ethiopia was invited to participate to make a presentation on the challenges facing processors and overall rice sector development. Following the presentation, the discussion that followed was crucial in the decision by delegates to ask APRA Ethiopia to develop a proposal on professionalising and modernising the rice processing industry. This proposal was then presented at a high-level rice roundtable, organised by MoA and EIAR in order to inform decision-makers on priority areas of intervention.

The programme for the high-level roundtable and agenda for discussions was compiled by Dawit Alemu, Country Lead for APRA Ethiopia. The recent publication of the EIAR book featuring APRA research was also timed to feed into the roundtable discussions. Dr Alemu provided a briefing on research findings to Shewit Emmauel, Private Sector Advisor at DFID Ethiopia, who has expressed interest in APRA Ethiopia's work.

'In general, the formal and informal sharing of APRA research findings to policymakers, development partners, and extension workers has contributed a lot to rice sector development in the country and in improving the livelihood of rice-producing farmers' – Mr Serur, National Rice Secretariat

The contribution of APRA's work to the prioritisation of rice in Ethiopia was said by a Senior Researcher at the Agriculture & Rural Development Policy Research Center (ARD-PRC), Policy Study Institute (PSI), to be immense as, while rice was always important nationally, it was not until after APRA's research was made available that it was given adequate consideration and prioritisation. APRA developed the strategy for rice production and commercialisation, and the focus of policy development and government on rice was sharpened – 'rice became more important' (ARD-PRC interview). What eventually followed was a considerable uptake of rice by farmers, and rice also became one of the key commodities in the newly-designed National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP 2022-2030) and also MoA's Ten-in-Ten 10-year perspective plan (2020–2030); with APRA's research and engagement strategies supporting this process along the way.

EthioRice, a ¥827 million (£5 million) joint initiative of the Governments of Ethiopia and Japan (2015–2020), was designed to enhance rice research and development

in the country through the establishment of the NRRTC in Fogera. This included establishing a National Rice Research Programme to facilitate the development, accumulation, and sharing of innovations in rice production, processing, and storage; the building of the capacities of Ethiopian scientists to undertake applied rice research; provision of training to farmers and others in the rice value chain; and establishment of a system of rice-related information sharing among relevant stakeholders.¹⁰ APRA Ethiopia researchers fed into the inception phase of the programme and were also invited to present their research findings to senior officials, as the Ethiopian and Japanese governments began preparing a second phase of EthioRice – which aimed to strengthen and extend the activities to 2025. That new phase has now been formally approved by both governments.

Exemplifying APRA's importance and contribution to the ENRDS and rice prioritisation in Ethiopia, is the invitation Dawit Alemu received from the federal government to engage with the task force to validate the design of the National Agriculture Investment Plan for the coming 10 years, which targets priority commodities. This Rural and Economic Development and Food Security platform brought together different actors, whom Alemu was able to convince that rice should be considered as one of the top five priority commodities in the National Agriculture Investment Plan – in turn aligning with the Centre for Agricultural Development and Impact and being able to influence the developments of these.

The increasing acknowledgement of the importance of rice in production and consumption, supported in part by APRA evidence, resulted in the government deciding to develop a flagship programme for rice development (along with programmes for oilseeds and wheat). The Ethiopia Office of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), with responsibility for developing the rice flagship programme, approached Alemu for data, evidence, and technical support from himself and fellow APRA researchers. Dr Alemu considers that awarding this role to APRA researchers shows how crucial their work is seen to be.

Hardcopies of publications produced by the APRA Ethiopia team, including working papers, policy briefs, research notes, and blogs (see Annex 4), were compiled into a package to disseminate to relevant stakeholders at the APRA closing event which was attended by the State Minister of Agriculture and other key

10 Alemu, D. and Thompson, J. (2020) *The Emerging Importance of Rice as a Strategic Crop in Ethiopia*. APRA Working Paper 44. Brighton: Future Agricultures Consortium. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15739>

stakeholders. This will likely sustain the contribution of the APRA beyond the end of the Programme (Ethiopia Country Lead interview).

The agile nature of APRA's programme design ensured that the country research team could coordinate and target relevant and important policies and practices for influence as they appeared.

For example, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the research focus was shifted to incorporate a multi-phase assessment relating to the effects of the state response to the crisis on local food systems and livelihoods in the Fogera Plain region. Doing so was said to legitimise APRA's work and bring it to the forefront of policymaker interest, as it allowed for the generation and provision of timely and relevant evidence on a major issue of national interest (Ethiopia Country Lead interview).

Tanzania

APRA was working in Tanzania to conduct mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) research to: (1) analyse the effects of different forms of rice commercialisation on poverty, food and nutrition security, and women's empowerment in the Kilombero Valley of Tanzania; (2) explore how different pathways of agricultural commercialisation have evolved over time in order to assess the dynamics of agrarian change, and understand how these have influenced livelihood opportunities and outcomes for rural men and women in Singida, Tanzania; (3) explore the different pathways young people use to establish themselves in farming or associated economic activities in areas where agriculture is already highly commercialised; and (4) examine how investment corridors are reshaping agricultural commercialisation pathways and rural livelihoods, looking at what the impacts have been and for whom.

Collaborations and partnerships (coordination)

The presentation of APRA evidence at the National Workshop, prior to the main EARC 2021, reached and engaged a wide range of policymakers, including senior officials in Tanzania's MoA and other stakeholders, who found the input useful. This engagement resulted in more buy-in and subsequent invitations to participate in workshops organised by the government and private sector actors, such as the Tanzania Rice Council, including a key meeting with Tanzania's MoA to discuss the implementation of Tanzania's Government officials are now aware of APRA's research and expertise Rice Strategy for 2019–2030 and call upon the researchers to provide input to discussions on rice.

APRA researchers also work closely with the district personnel in Kilombero to provide evidence and advice on inclusive rice commercialisation.

Sharing research results (influencing conversations)

The influence of APRA work was said by the Head of the Rice Promotion Programme at Kenya's MoA, to be mostly seen through the sharing of research in the various events attended or organised by the APRA team (see Annexes 2 and 3). APRA work highlighted the weaknesses in addressing gender and inclusion issues and showed how best to improve these – both with new initiatives and enhancing the work that is already happening – as the move to commercialisation of rice is taking place (MoA Kenya interview).

In Tanzania, APRA research in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, confirmed the significant contribution of small- and medium-scale agro-pastoralists to rice commercialisation using the animal drawn technology they introduced in the Kilombero Valley. APRA findings also highlighted how land tenure systems can act as a disincentive for investment and improvement, and disadvantage women and youth: most do not own land due to cultural factors (land transfer) and have limited capital to access land through the market, so they can only use it at the discretion of their husbands. Those who have attained land then tend to have smaller plots. In Kilombero Valley, most farmland has been titled including to women owners. These findings have received attention in the local media and prompted conversations with local authorities on the implications for local development plans.

'APRA has generated evidence on how commercialisation impacted livelihoods in Tanzania, particularly in Kilombero Valley in Morogoro Region and in Singida Region. APRA has shared these evidence with the main stakeholders, i.e., farmers, policy makers (government), and the private sector of the value chains (processors and the like), which was done through feedback workshops in both regions, and through the media. So, through this, we are confident and proud that the messages have reached the intended audiences' – Gideon Boniface, Agricultural Economist, APRA Ghana Research Officer leading on data analysis.

Following a presentation of a paper entitled, *Rice Exports, an untapped potential in Tanzania: Factor limiting rice commercialisation in Mngeta, Kilombero valley*, at the 12th AGREST Scientific Conference, held on 4-6 December 2020 in Dodoma, APRA Tanzania

researchers were invited by the acting Permanent Secretary of the MOA to make a presentation at a meeting – convened by MoA and Professor Adolf Mkenda, and attended by major grain traders, including large exporters, held in Dodoma on 13 February 2021. The presentation focused on the role of traders along the rice value chain to ensure quality and standards are maintained to meet the expectations of consumers in local and export markets. The finding in relation to export immediately caught the MoA's attention, because it has macro implications. Since the presentation in Dodoma, APRA has been invited to other ministerial meetings, which has helped raise awareness among the government of APRA's work in relation to Tanzania's role as the leading rice producer in the region and a NET exporter (Tanzania Country Lead interview).

The findings also showed an indirect positive impact of commercialisation and diversification of employment on women's empowerment. However, this finding was said to have received less attention by the MoA compared to the findings linked with the export insights, due to the perceived lack of its wider macroeconomic implications and the fact there are other organisations working towards the increased empowerment of women (including other government organisations, NGOs, community-based organisations, and development partners) through awareness raising, training, and direct support. This demonstrates that the empowerment agenda is not yet practically mainstreamed in agricultural development issues. Nonetheless, APRA research found that infrastructure improvement (main and rural roads, telephone and electricity infrastructure) was on-going, creating more livelihood options for both men and women.

Village-level workshops highlighted that some medium-scale farmers – who had shown a high level of commercialisation in the APRA baseline survey – had low livelihood indicators, including poor condition of housing and amenities, low women's empowerment, and children's low school attendance. The workshops showed that cultural factors accounted for such performance, since most medium-scale rice farmers in the Kilombero Valley often are agro-pastoralists who have recently migrated to the area. They have had limited time to construct their dwellings and amenities, such as toilets. Moreover, their cultural values are known to be disempowering for women (Tanzania Country Lead interview).

APRA researchers worked closely with district level stakeholders, findings from whom were useful for their own work; e.g., learning that farmers who apply

the principles and practices of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) received higher yields and had higher livelihood levels. However, the adoption of SRI has been progressing slowly as the technology is labour and knowledge intensive – which partly explained why there was low perceived impact by some producers. However, adoption of SRI is increasing, albeit at a slow pace, because the income and livelihood impacts of the early adopters are visible, in turn attracting more adopters (Tanzania Country Lead interview).

There are some initiatives within the rice export strategy. One is the introduction of the semi-aromatic varieties of rice, which offer higher yields than the local aromatic variety. Most semi-aromatic varieties respond well to SRI technologies, which increases the possibility for farmers to adopt this strategy. For example, a 2017 [blog](#) detailing a woman rice farmer called Anita highlighted how she achieves this higher yield, and how her life has transformed after adopting this strategy. She provides training to, and serves as a model in her community for, other women and farmers in general to improve their productivity (Tanzania Country Lead interview).

APRA research has shown that rice has strong employment effects, with most employment coming for smallholder farmers who can sell their labour to larger scale farms or enter into arrangements as outgrowers. APRA showed that commercialisation is important for creating alternative livelihood options, some of which are empowering to women (Tanzania Country Lead interview).

While Tanzania currently has a female president, cultural perspectives of women still vary between diverse populations, and even between different groups within the same district. This makes socio-cultural influences highly dependent on context, and therefore difficult for APRA research findings to be representative of every situation. Consequently, it is hard for these findings to be generalisable and relevant in informing and influencing conversations within all contexts (MoA Tanzania interview).

East Africa

This section presents reflections on APRA's experiences and challenges of working in the East African region, providing insights that have been gleaned from this experience.

At the regional level, APRA co-hosted the '*East Africa Rice Conference: Inclusive and Sustainable Rice System Development*' (hereafter EARC) from 18–20 May 2021 in collaboration with IRRI, AfricaRice, CARD, and

JICA. This conference involved 553 participants (145 women and 408 men) over three days of deliberations – six one-day face-to-face national events in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, and a two-day online regional workshop which offered the opportunity for new collaborations and conversations. The forum brought together several high-level regional and international organisations to initiate substantive discussions on policy and investment in national and regional rice sector development. Significant media coverage of the event was generated across the continent (see Annex 5) and beyond. This case study will reflect on the outcomes of this event and how it contributed evidence to inform the preparation of a new Regional Rice Development Strategy (RRDS) for East Africa, which is being coordinated by the EAC, as well as reflect upon APRA's successes and challenges in aggregating national experiences to coordinate regional engagement.

Collaborations and partnerships (coordination)

The EARC brought together stakeholders from different countries with different experiences to provide a learning and sharing platform. The Principal Scientist and Representative at IRRI Africa (hereafter IRRI Africa), who was interviewed for this case study, highlighted that co-convening with APRA resulted in the inclusion of stakeholders from across various countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the discussion. The range of organisations and personnel invited included donors, scientists, and representatives from local networks, such as the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and the Central Africa, EAC, and the Economic Community of West African States. This diversity enabled new collaborations and partnerships across the region and reduced the need for intermediaries. The event also strengthened existing partnerships. Through new partnerships, such as with the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), new work was promoted and trainings organised, some with a focus on youth empowerment. The importance of bringing together different stakeholders, including youth and women, was identified on multiple occasions by interviewees for this case study as key in informing conversations and coordination activities.

The partnerships initiated during the conference allowed exchanges of different views, ideas, and technical innovations to be shared. For example, one interviewee stated that the new interactions led to a new awareness of the influence of rice production on climate change; Kenyan researchers were able to provide some success stories from their work and show how they contribute to reducing greenhouse gases.

IRRI Africa stated that APRA research was able to fill a gap by providing the link between rice farmers and other actors and parts of the rice value chain (agroprocessing, marketing, etc.), and identifying how these interact with the political economy of rice policy processes. It was stated that other organisations, such as CGIAR, focus on generating higher productivity and profitability. The sharper focus of APRA's research on inclusive value chains was said to be of great importance for analysing and understanding activities that link inputs with outputs and domestic and regional markets, and to fill a key knowledge gap left by others.

The existing networks attempt to address policy issues, but these are often difficult to put forward. APRA was able to provide new evidence and policy lessons to support regional knowledge exchange and networks to broaden the policy influence and identify potential strategies to promote rice sector development. This networking informed the preparation of the proposed EAC RRDS to address the regional coordination, harmonisation and integration issues around rice (IRRI interview). The EARC Conference was a pivotal moment where APRA was able to work with key national and regional partners to help advance the strategy's agenda.

Training needs were also identified at the EARC, with some organisations now working with IRRI Africa to develop South-South cooperation opportunities; for example, with countries from Asia, of which APRA has helped with coordination (IRRI interview).

Sharing research results (influencing conversations)

The Head of the Rice Promotion Programme at MoA Kenya stated that APRA had made a very significant contribution to conversations and coordination at the regional level in East Africa. They commented that the *'contribution was very important in terms of producing research papers that decision-makers could read, building the capacity of researchers themselves and giving them a platform to share their findings.'* CARD's General Coordinator said, *'The most memorable and greatest contribution at the conference itself was the presentations of research results from the APRA team, with a summary of how evidence from the conference could be used for the National Rice Development Strategies. The post-conference feedback survey carried out by CARD reinforced this feedback'* (CARD interview).

The IRRI Regional Representative for Africa noted that, while the EARC content was focussed on policy

issues, the key contribution was that it brought together different experiences and perspectives from countries – with differing levels of progress and quality of rice value chains, from which all stakeholders could learn from. For example, Ghana and Nigeria are already advanced in their rice production, while Tanzania is self-sufficient in terms of its rice production outcomes. This, therefore, helped East African countries to identify problems or gaps in policy, and to create a roadmap to identify how any shared challenges or gaps can be overcome. The General Coordinator at the CARD Secretariat agreed that bringing in perspectives from across the region allowed for strengths and weaknesses to be identified and drawn upon for future policy development.

IRRI Africa observed that APRA's approach supported the change in policy, with its strategy of identifying the weaknesses in the current rice production system and sharing these findings with government actors. *'Countries that have taken on board recommendations such as those of APRA are doing well'* – Principal Scientist, IRRI Africa.

EARC presentations were said to have raised awareness of methods for improving the nutrition of rice in the value chain – for example, by incorporating fish or shrimp to the process – which has resulted in the inclusion of these methods in the rice strategies being developed and refined (MoA Kenya interview).

In April 2022, a team led by Hannington Odame, Dawit Alemu, and Aida Isinika submitted a competitive bid to AGRA to lead the design of a Flagship Programme on Rice in Ethiopia, to support the expansion and coordination of the rice sector in the country. The team won the bid thanks to the track-record they established under APRA for producing high-quality evidence and policy-relevant analysis. This work will begin after the formal close of APRA, but shows that the programme's influence on rice policy and programming will continue.

The important contribution of APRA, in terms of bringing people together and providing fresh evidence that can feed into the development of the EAC's RRDS was highlighted by all. However, the CARD representative observed that there had not been much progress since the EARC in the development of the strategy itself, although some inputs from the conference were incorporated into RRDS documents. Following the EARC, there had been some online support from APRA to organise regional meetings to carry out a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis for each country. The resulting combined analysis for East Africa is still in preparation, following delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APRA representatives – Hannington Odame, APRA Regional Coordinator for East Africa, Aida Isinika, APRA Country Lead for Tanzania, John Thompson, APRA CEO at the Institute of Development Studies, and Abdelgagi Ismael, Regional Representative for Africa at IRRI – all received official invitations from the EAC and CARD Secretariats to give a set of presentations to the high-level delegation responsible for developing the new RRDS, at the EAC regional workshop in Nairobi on 2-6 May 2022, organised by EAC Secretariat and CARD. The team gave four presentations during the week-long event, covering the following topics: 'Regional Priorities and Policy Options Emerging from East Africa Rice Conference 2021'; *'Regional Priorities and Policy Options: Experience from Asia'*; *'Analysing and Understanding Agricultural Policy Processes: Political Economy Considerations'*; and *'Private Sector Roles in Promoting Rice Commercialisation in Smallholder Rice Farms in East Africa'*. This highlights the esteem that the APRA work has in the development and continuation of this process. Main attendance was three representatives from each of the EAC member states, two from the ministry, and one from the private sector; along with other partners including AGRA, IRRI, and JICA, and private sector organisations including CFAO, Kenya Seed Company, and rice importers.

5 ROBUSTNESS OF CONTRIBUTION CLAIM

There are examples of APRA work informing conversations around rice in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and East Africa, although the details of how sufficient these were differ depending on context. It is a robust claim that the APRA teams and their research managed to inform conversations and coordination around the regional prioritisation of rice in East Africa, including the preparation of EAC's RRDS, the design and implementation of EthioRice, and preparation of the ENRDS, and how rice commercialisation is supporting women's inclusion and empowerment at the district level in Tanzania. While this claim is robust, it is important to mention that APRA work was not solely responsible for informing these conversations, and instead emphasise that it played an important role and filled a necessary niche in these activities. It should be noted that this analysis reflects the situation in the final months of the APRA Programme, with final dissemination workshops and engagements still underway. The actual outcomes from this research will not be fully evident until some point in the future.

As rice becomes a strategic commodity in Africa, many countries in East Africa have embarked on various programmes that, along with continental initiatives, aim to chart a course of action for moving the regional rice sector forward.¹¹ This prompted thinking within countries around how they could reduce their dependence on imports from Asia, and acted as the main trigger to focus on self-sufficiency and improving rice production across the region (CARD interview). Dietary habits and urbanisation are also changing consumption patterns, which means people are eating more rice and rice products. While maize remains the main staple, demand for rice is rising quickly. Therefore, EAC is seeking to develop the value chain, mobilise investment, and strengthen capacity associated with the crop (CARD interview). Not all progress towards the development of rice and the inclusion and prioritisation of rice in East Africa can be attributed to APRA contributions in all settings. However, many experts and policy makers consulted in the region have acknowledged that the Programme's

research provided new evidence and understanding of the growing importance of rice to local livelihoods and economies, and how particular interventions in value chains may support more inclusive forms of commercialisation. APRA research has also shone a light on the use of evidence to inform and influence policy processes and built the capacity for research in the region. This is most evident in Ethiopia, where the NRDS contains citations of APRA work; and this exemplifies the role of APRA in achieving the outcome of informing the conversation of rice commercialisation and development.

Women's inclusion in rice value chains in Tanzania has been taken seriously prior to APRA, with a variety of organisations addressing women's empowerment at the forefront of their work. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that these organisations, and not solely APRA, have been informing conversations and coordination in this area. Nevertheless, research carried out by the APRA Tanzania team has added important new evidence and policy-relevant insights to reinforce and extend our understanding of these issues.

11 IIRI (2021) 'East African countries champion integrated rice sector development in the region to curb escalating imports', *IIRI* [online]. <https://www.irri.org/news-and-events/news/east-african-countries-champion-integrated-rice-sector-development-region-curb>

6 LESSONS LEARNT



Lesson 1: For informing and influencing policy and practice, individual credibility and connections matter. In Ethiopia, the APRA lead researcher was already involved, well known, and trusted in the agricultural sector. He was able to rapidly assemble an experienced group of researchers with good connections to decisionmakers within government. This enabled the APRA team to feed rice value chain research findings into the decision-making system at times when key decisions were being made. Government officials, recognising their expertise, asked for advice from team members and appointed them to advisory positions. In contrast, the Tanzanian rice team had to work hard to build connections with local media and local government officials in order to communicate their research findings.

Lesson 2: To gain traction in influencing the rice policy processes, it may be necessary to align the different priorities of government and APRA. For instance, APRA research was focussed on identifying and analysing pathways to inclusive commercialisation. In both Ethiopia and Tanzania, government interest in rice was focussed more on the macro issues of import substitution or export growth. Building on their PIPA approach, APRA researchers gained government attention by addressing the macro issues, while still including inclusivity issues of gender, youth, and smallholders needs.

Lesson 3: Partnerships and platforms are important for scale and sustainability. The PIPA process identified potential partners and platforms. APRA worked successfully with existing and emerging rice programmes and rice-focussed research and development organisations at national, regional, and international levels, often through jointly hosting events to create events and platforms for conversations and communication. A notable example was the jointly organised 2021 EARC, at which APRA research findings were prominently featured and discussed.

Lesson 4: Research and influencing programmes need an appropriate combination of long-term planning and shorter-term flexibility. Observing the drivers and outcomes of pathways to commercialisation

over time was central to the APRA research design. However, there was enough flexibility to also address relevant emerging issues such as the importance of rice processors, rice export barriers, climate change and the effects of COVID-19. Using a political economy lens to describe the overall value chain can provide a unified framework to different and changing research components.

Lesson 5: Research can identify perverse incentives and weak linkages in the value chain that act as barriers. APRA studies at country and regional levels have been able to provide insights into key obstacles to improving rice sector performance along the value chain, including factors inhibiting increasing productivity, improving the quality of rice sold, minimising breakages, and getting access to improved processing technologies. Further study may then be required to identify the best ways to overcome the identified barriers.

ANNEX 1 – KEY INFORMANTS



Abdelbagi M Ismail

Principal Scientist and IRRI Representative, Africa, IRRI

Aida C. Isinika

APRA Country Lead for Tanzania and Professor, Institute of Continuing Education, Sokoine University of Agriculture

Bilaro Atugonza

National Rice Research Coordination Centre IFAKARA Centre (formerly KATRIN), Tanzania

Dawit Alemu

APRA Country Lead for Ethiopia and Coordinator of Agricultural Economics, Research Extension and Farmers linkage, EIAR

Getachew Belay

AGRA, Ethiopia

Mary Mutembei

Head of Rice Promotion Programme, State Department for Crop Development and Agricultural Research, MoA Nairobi, Kenya

Tadesse Kuma Worako

Senior Researcher, ARD-PRC and PSI, Ethiopia

Yusuke Haneishi

General Coordinator, CARD Secretariat, c/o AGRA, Nairobi, Kenya

ANNEX 2 – ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

An important way in which evidence generated by APRA has informed conversations and coordination, has been through engagement activities and the hosting of events to create platforms for conversations and communication. Evidence of these events and their importance in sharing evidence for informing conversations and enhancing or creating partnerships and platforms can be seen through the various engagement activities below (see also Annex 3 for a full list), along with the descriptions of what these events entailed and produced.

December 2019–March 2020 – The APRA Ethiopia country team initiated three interlinked, high-level, co-sponsored policy events on NRSD:

- Ethiopia 1 – **December 2019** – An Expert Consultation Workshop on the National Rice Sector Development Strategy of Ethiopia was convened to guide the national rice research and development interventions for the coming 10 years (2021–2030). The workshop was initiated by the APRA Ethiopia Team and attended by officials and senior experts from the MoA and development partner representatives, including JICA, Sasakawa Global 2000-Ethiopia, the Mennonite Economic Development Associates, EthioRice project, and the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA).
- Ethiopia 2 – **22 February 2020** – *National Stakeholders’ Workshop on the NRDS*. The objective of this event was to collect feedback from relevant stakeholders on the draft *National Rice Sector Strategy* and finalise it with Rice Secretariat of the MoA. It was convened by MoA, with significant input from the APRA Ethiopia Team.
- Ethiopia 3 – **9 March 2020** – *Ethiopia National Rice Platform Workshop*, in Addis Ababa. The objective of the event was to establish an official National Rice Platform that will be inclusive of all actors engaged the rice sector and which will provide strategic guidance to the MoA on rice sector development. It was chaired by MoA and initiated by the APRA Ethiopia Team.
 - The establishment of the platform was initiated by MoA, with the support of the National

Rice Secretariat, [EthioRice](#), the National Rice Research and Training Center of the [EIAR](#), and APRA Ethiopia.

- APRA’s contribution to the ENRDS was through sustained engagement and support to MoA to convene a National Rice Platform. This will include all actors engaged in the rice sector and provide strategic guidance to MoA on rice sector development.
- Presentations were made by Mr Esayas Lema from MoA on the newly-approved NRDS (2020–2030), Shewaye Abera of EIAR on their contribution to the development of rice sector in the country, and Mr Abebe Haile, a private rice seed producer on the experiences of his company in promoting rice in the West Omo zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People’s Region. APRA’s Dawit Alemu delivered an overview of rice processors and their contribution to rice sector development, while Mekuria Yemer presented on the experience of MEDA in rice promotion in Fogera Plain. Finally, Amino Engineering PLC spoke about the role of the private sector in such development.

25 February 2021 – COVID-19 Impact and Rice Competitiveness

- CARD Regional Webinar on ‘COVID-19 Impact and Rice Competitiveness’ – keynote presentation on ‘The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Rice Value Chains: Findings from Ethiopia and Tanzania’

18–20 May 2021 – APRA co-hosted the ‘East Africa Rice Conference: Inclusive and Sustainable Rice System Development’

- In collaboration with JICA, AfricaRice, CARD, IRRI. This created a platform to bring together several high-level regional organisations to initiate substantive discussions on policy and investment in national and regional rice sector development. Substantial media coverage of the event was generated across the continent.

29 July 2021 – East Africa Independent Food Systems Dialogue

- The conference noted that research can contribute to food outcomes if all actors involved have a common understanding of the status of the rice sector.
- Professor Joyce Kinabo, Food Technology Nutritionist at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania, called for an understanding of the value chain. *‘Value chains are different in terms of operations, and there is a need to contextualise the rice value chain, share information, enhance proper data management, and understand nutrition outcomes and local initiatives to deliver context specific interventions,’* she explained.
- Dr Mary Mwale, a Food Security Specialist in the Kenya MoA, Livestock and Fisheries, reported that *‘although the government has subsidy programmes, Kenya’s rice sector has not received much support.’*

7 October 2021 – East Africa Ethiopia/Tanzania APRA follow-up engagement meeting

Tanzania:

- Engaged stakeholders in rice and sunflower value chains at the district and national levels as identified in PIPA throughout the APRA process.
- Presented APRA evidence at EARC 2021, interacted with a wide range of policymakers, including Tanzania’s MoA and other stakeholders, who found the input useful. This engagement resulted in more buy-in and subsequent invitations to participate in workshops, including with the Tanzania Rice Council, a one-day virtual meeting with Tanzania’s MoA to discuss the implementation of Tanzania rice strategy 2019–2030, and with Côte d’Ivoire and North Korea.
- Presented a paper on the unexploited potential of rice trade at the Africa economic society in 2020.
- Tanzania government officials’ were aware of APRA research and called upon the researchers to give input to discussions on rice. Also, APRA researchers worked closely with the district personnel in Kilombero.
- A one-day meeting in Dodoma was scheduled in last week of October 2021, to meet key stakeholders in rice and sunflower value chains.

- Contribution of APRA evidence: APRA, Tanzania had discussions with the Tanzania Rice Council on the quality of the mills which leave dust on processed rice; in turn contributing to malpractices by traders to manage rice.
- Contribution of APRA evidence: One of the APRA papers in the local journals was presented in the Ag Ec conference, and APRA Tanzania was invited by MoA to a meeting with traders who were sharing their grievances.

Ethiopia:

- APRA researchers have been the resource persons for the National Rice Technical Committee meetings, so had a chance to engage them on top issues – including the revision of the NRDS, which was approved at end of 2020 for 10 years.
- APRA Ethiopia outputs and engagements are formally aligned and mainstreamed to the National Rice Secretariat and the National Task Force.
- APRA evidence has been used to push for rice to be considered as priority commodities for public interventions.
- The evidence from Fogera Plain are expected to provide guidance around scaling to have more ‘Fogeras’ in efforts to boost production and productivity, boost inclusive rice value chain development, and contribute to rice import substitutions.

26 October 2021 – Tanzania National Feedback Workshop

- Increased yields and improved productivity were key priorities of this national feedback workshop, which was attended by 38 stakeholders comprised of researchers, farmers, traders, processors, extension officers, policymakers, and representatives from NGOs. *‘In the case of rice, the government is guided by the second phase of the rice strategy, which aims to double yields and increase the area under irrigation,’* explained Mr Obadi Nyagiro, Tanzania’s Director of Policy and Planning in MoA. Mr. Nyagiro added that the country aims to improve sunflower productivity to reduce Tanzania’s dependency on imported edible oil, on which the country spends about US\$2.2million. As medium- and long-term solutions, the government has increased budget allocation for research, seed development, and the improvement of extension services.

- The feedback workshop builds on a participatory research process, the findings of which have been shared through the local media and in different forums. Some of these forums include: a participatory impact pathways analysis which (conducted in 2017); feedback forums conducted in Kilombero and Mkalam districts; and the regional [East Africa Rice Conference](#), which brought together 46 participants to explore a regional strategy for sustainable and inclusive development of rice in East Africa.

29 November 2021 – Rice sector transformation event in Ethiopia: Lessons from the APRA Programme

- Comprising participants from public organisations including MoA, Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), EIAR, and Regional Agricultural Research Institutes (OARI, ARARI, and SARI), and development partners, including JICA Ethiopia, EthioRice, MEDA Ethiopia, and APRA.
- Following the discussion, the following decisions were made:
 - To revitalise the functioning of the national steering committee to overlook the implementation of the NRSD (both at national and regional level).
 - To develop a national rice flagship programme that guides the implementation of the NRSD considering the specificities of the seven identified rice hubs.
 - To adequately explore how private sector actors can proactively engage in the rice commercial farming, processing, technology importation, and demonstration, etc.
 - To strengthen collaborations with: (i) CARD, of which Ethiopia has been a member since 2008; (ii) AfricaRice, of which Ethiopia has been a member since 2016; (iii) IRRI; (iv) EthioRice project (2020-2025), which is the second phase supported by JICA Ethiopia.
 - To ensure alignment of all rice-related initiatives through the flagship programme.

November 2021 – Presentation of APRA findings to EIAR

- <https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/transforming-the-rice-sector-in-ethiopia-lessons-from-apra-programme/>
- <https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/a-way-forward-for-ethiopias-rice-sector-outcomes-of-a-national-event/>
- <https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/can-agrarian-transformation-in-ethiopias-fogera-plain-be-scaled-lessons-from-a-national-engagement-workshop/>

2–6 May 2022 – EAC regional workshop

- The APRA team presented their results at the EAC regional workshop in Nairobi, organised by the EAC Secretariat and CARD. Attendees included three representatives from each EAC member state, two from the Ministry, and one from private sector, along with other partners including AGRA, IRRI, JICA, and private sector partners such as CFAO, Kenya Seed Company, and rice importers.

ANNEX 3 – EVENTS



Event	Event title	Presentation/presenter(s)	Location	Date	Organisers	Theme	Notes
APRA meeting	Meeting with National Rice Research and Development Technical committee	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	2017	National Rice Research and Development Technical committee	Agricultural commercialisation	Participated in the regular meeting of the National Rice Research and Development Technical committee and made a briefing about APRA and Ethiopia Work Stream
Meeting	Meeting with EthioRice Project Manager	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	2017	EthioRice		Meeting with EthioRice's Project Manager on the possibility of research collaboration. Agreement reached to jointly organise seminars and workshop, along with preparation of a joint book
Meeting	Meeting with National Rice Research and Training centre of EIAR	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	2017	EIAR		Meeting with Director and Rice Researchers at the National Rice Research and Training centre of EIAR on possible collaborations. Agreement reached to get all the support in facilitating data collection and organisation of policy dialogue towards the end of 2018
Conference	First National Rice Research & Development Conference, Wereta	Dawit Alemu	Wereta, Ethiopia	16/11 /2018			We shared the research outputs of APRA Ethiopia and created linkages with relevant stakeholders for future communication. It was decided that the second National Rice Conference would be held in Nov 2019 and we plan to engage and organise jointly as APRA
Other	National Rice Promotion Event, Addis Ababa	Dawit Alemu	Addis, Ethiopia	21/12 /2018		Rice commercialisation in Ethiopia	The event shared not only APRA Ethiopia research results but also relevant research outputs from APRA Africa
Other meeting	Fourth Joint Coordination Committee Meeting for EthioRice Project		Bahir Dar, Ethiopia	03/06/2019	EthioRice project and EIAR		
Other workshop	A workshop on the National Rice Sector Development Strategy of Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu	Debre Zeit, Ethiopia	13/12/2019	National Rice Secretariat of MoA		
Other workshop	National stakeholders' workshop on the NRDS	Dawit Alemu	Nazareth (Adama), Ethiopia	22/02/2020	Rice Secretariat of MoA		

Other meeting	The first National Rice Platform Meeting	Rice processors and their commercial behaviours: Key challenges for enhanced contribution to rice sector development / Dawit Alemu	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	09/03/2020	APRA, National Rice Secretariat, together with MoA	National Rice stakeholders platform	State Minister of MoA, rice processors, JICA, rice researchers, supermarket owners
APRA meeting	Ethiopian rice sector transformation	Dawit Alemu	Virtual meeting	27/07/2020	APRA Ethiopia, together with MoA	Priority intervention options	State Minister at MoA, JICA Country Mission Head, Head of EthioRice, National Rice Secretariat
Other meeting	Enhancing domestic rice production: Plan to ensuring import substitution in Ethiopia	Review of the proposed strategic document	EIAR Hiruy hall, Addis Ababa	09/08/2020	(EIAR)	Discussion on the strategic document	Experts from MoA, EIAR and RARI researchers, development partners, private actors
	Is agricultural commercialisation inclusive? Experience from rice and sunflower in Morogoro and Singida regions in Tanzania	Aida Isinika; Ntengua Mdoe; Christopher Magomba; Devotha Kilave; Gideon Boniface	Institute of Continuing Education at Sokoine university of Agriculture	20/10/2020	APRA-Tanzania research team	Sharing key findings with journalists as strategic partners for wider dissemination	Journalists from 23 different media houses
	CARD initiative for rice mechanisation and irrigation management in Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu	Online	22/10/2020	CARD		Members of the National Rice Technical Committee, officials from CARD and JICA (Ethiopia & HQs), APRA Ethiopia
Webinar	COVID-19 impact and rice competitiveness	The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rice value chains: Findings from Ethiopia and Tanzania/APRA	Online	25/02/2021	CARD		APRA present findings at webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the rice sector
Other meeting	South-South Knowledge Exchange: Rice value chain development	Challenges and opportunities in rice production in East and Southern Africa (ESA)/Dawit Alemu	Online	01/06/2021	The World Bank, organised with support from UK FCDO, in partnership with IRRI and AfricaRice	South-South Knowledge Exchange	Participants from India, 16 African countries, World Bank, IRRI, AfricaRice

Other conference	Nourishing East Africa in a post-COVID 19 world: pathways and challenges in building sustainable value chains for the Africa rice sector	Partnerships and policies for inclusive value chain upgrading/ Dawit Alemu	Virtual	29/07/2021	IRRI, AfricaRice, APRA, CABE, CARD, and JICA	Partnerships and policies for inclusive value chain upgrading	Regional organisations, international organisations, national organisations, scientists, policymakers
APRA workshop	Discussion on relevance and importance of considering rice in ECX Trading Platform	Status of rice commercialisation in Ethiopia/ Dawit Alemu	Addis Ababa	19/08/2021	APRA and MoA	Rice commercialisation	Senior experts from MoA, NGOs, and ECX
APRA workshop	Rice sector transformation event in Ethiopia – Lessons from APRA Programme	Rice commercialisation, agrarian changes, and livelihood impacts in Ethiopia/Dawit Alemu	Hiruy hall, EIAR, Addis Ababa	29/11/2021	APRA Ethiopia programme, in collaboration with MoA	Rice commercialisation, agrarian changes, and livelihood impacts in Ethiopia	
Other workshop	National rice commodity development workshop in the United Republic of Tanzania: A review of policies, strategies, and programmes to foster the rice sub-sector	Positioning Tanzania in regional rice market: Critical factors to monitor and address/Aida Isinika	Kingsway Hotel Morogoro and virtual (Rome, Korea, Nairobi)	06/12/2021	MoA, IRRI, and FAO	To review policies for implementing NRDS Phase 2	
Conference	East Africa Rice Conference 2021	Janet Edeme, Kiyoshi Shiratori, Dawit Alemu, Paul Amaza, Miltone Ayieko, Aida Isinika, Ntengua Mdoe, Hannington Odame, John Thompson	Virtual	18-20 May 2021	AfricaRice, APRA, CABE, IRRI, JICA, CARD, FCDO, and UKAid	Agricultural policy in Africa's rice sector	

ANNEX 4 – PUBLICATIONS



Working papers, APRA Briefs, and research notes

Output	Publication title	Author(s)	Country focus	Date	Link
Working Paper	Working Paper 18: A Historical Analysis of Rice Commercialisation in Ethiopia: The Case of the Fogera Plain	Dawit Alemu, Agajie Tesfaye, Abebaw Assaye, Degu Addis, Tilahun Tadesse, and John Thompson	Ethiopia	25/01/2019	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/14283
APRA Brief	APRA Brief 16: A Historical Analysis of Rice Commercialisation in Ethiopia: The Case of the Fogera Plain	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	12/03/2019	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16695
APRA Brief	APRA Brief 22: Enhancing Production of Quality Rice in Ethiopia: Dis/incentives for Rice Processors	Abebeaw Assaye and Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	30/03/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16700
APRA Brief	APRA Brief 23: Does Rice Commercialisation in Mngeta, Kilombero, Tanzania Impact Livelihoods?	Aida Isinika, Ntengua Mdoe, John Jeckonia, Christopher Magomba, Gilead Mlay, and Devotha Kilave	Tanzania	08/04/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16701
Working paper	Working Paper 30: Does Rice Commercialisation Impact on Livelihood? Experience from Mngeta in Kilombero District, Tanzania	Aida Isinika, Gilead Mlay, Gideon Boniface, Ntengua Mdoe, Colin Poulton, and Amrita Saha	Tanzania	01/05/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15269
APRA Brief	APRA Brief 24: The White Gold of Wereta: A City Raised on Rice	Tilahun Tadesse, Dawit Alemu, and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	15/05/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16702
APRA Brief	APRA Brief 25: Does Rice Commercialisation Enhance or Impair Household Food Security Among Rice Producing Households in Mngeta Division, Kilombero District, Tanzania?	Ntengua Mdoe, Gilead Mlay, Aida Isinika, Gideon Boniface, Christopher Magomba, John Jeckonia, and Devotha Mosha	Tanzania	15/05/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16704
Working paper	Working Paper 34: Does Rice Commercialisation Empower Women? Experience from Mngeta Division in Kilombero District, Tanzania	John Jeckonia, Devotha B. Mosha, and Gideon Boniface	Tanzania	10/07/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15521
Working paper	Working Paper 44: The Emerging Importance of Rice as a Strategic Crop in Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu and John Thompson	Ethiopia	02/11/2020	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15739
Working paper	Working Paper 51: The Political Economy of the Rice Value Chain In Ethiopia: Actors, Performance, and Discourses	Dawit Alemu and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	15/03/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16460

Output	Publication title	Author(s)	Country focus	Date	Link
Working paper	Working Paper 52: Agricultural Commercialisation and the Political Economy of Cocoa and Rice Value Chains in Nigeria	Emmanuel Remi Aiyede	Nigeria	15/03/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16462
Working paper	Working Paper 57: Agricultural Commercialisation and Political Economy of Value Chains: Tanzania Rice Case Study	Ntengua S.Y. Mdoe and Glead I. Mlay	Tanzania	31/03/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16680
Research note	Research Note 3: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Household Rice Consumption Patterns in Ethiopia: The Case of Addis Ababa	Dawit Alemu and Gashaw T. Abate	Ethiopia	30/04/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16673
Research note	Research Note 4: Responses of Rice Farmers Engaged in Vegetable Production: Implications of the Collapse of Vegetable Prices in the Fogera Plain	Dawit Alemu and Tirhas Kinfe	Ethiopia	27/07/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16758
Working paper	Working paper 61: Rice Commercialisation, Agrarian Change and Livelihood Trajectories: Transformations on the Fogera Plain of Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu, John Thompson, and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	05/08/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16783
Working paper	Working Paper 63: Rice Commercialisation Effects in Mngeta, Kilombero District, Tanzania: Identifying the Underlying Factors	Aida Isinika, Gilead Mlay, Ntengua Mdoe, Gideon Boniface, Christopher Magomba, and Devotha Kilave	Tanzania	07/09/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16828
Working paper	Working Paper 74: The Role of Small-Scale Processors in Supporting Agricultural Commercialisation Among Smallholder Rice Farmers in East Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia and Tanzania	Dawit Alemu, Aida Isinika, Hannington Odame, and John Thompson	Ethiopia and Tanzania	09/11/2021	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16930
Working paper	Working Paper 78: How Does Land Size Mediate the Relationship Between Specialisation and Commercialisation? Lessons From Rice Farming in the Fogera Plain of Ethiopia	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, Marco Carreras, and Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	18/01/2022	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/17060
Working paper	Working Paper 83: Hired Labour Use, Productivity, and Commercialisation: The Case of Rice in Fogera Plain of Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu and Abebaw Asaye		21/02/2022	https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/17191

Blogs and newsletters

Output	Publication title	Author(s)	Country focus	Date	Link
Blog	Promoting Ethiopia's rice industry for import substitution	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	11/05/2018	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/promoting-ethiopias-rice-industry-for-import-substitution/
Blog	Ethiopia: Enriching livelihoods with rice research	Tilahun Tadesse, Abebaw Assaye, and Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	05/10/2018	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/ethiopia-enriching-livelihoods-with-rice-research/
Blog	Can rice commercialisation transform agrarian society in Ethiopia?	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler	Ethiopia	27/11/2018	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/can-rice-commercialisation-transform-agrarian-society-in-ethiopia/
Blog	Injera: Is Rice commercialisation changing traditional Ethiopian recipes?	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	21/02/2019	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/injera-is-rice-commercialisation-changing-traditional-ethiopian-recipes/
Blog	Herbicides: opportunities and challenges for commercial rice production in Kilombero Valley	Aida Isinika, John Jeckoniah, and Ntengua Mdoe	Tanzania	12/03/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/herbicides-opportunities-and-challenges-for-commercial-rice-production-in-kilombero-valley/
Newsletter	Njage farmers preparing to take rice commercialisation to the next level	Kizito K. Mwajombe, Gideon Boniface, and Aida Isinika	Tanzania	30/03/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/njage-farmers-preparing-to-take-rice-commercialisation-to-the-next-level/
Blog	Mobile money services and rice commercialisation in Tanzania	Aida Isinika and Ntengua Mdoe	Tanzania	09/04/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/mobile-money-services-facilitating-rice-commercialisation-in-mngeta-tanzania/
Blog	COVID-19: responses of rice farmers and processors in the Fogera Plain, Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	22/06/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/covid-19-responses-of-rice-farmers-and-processors-in-the-fogera-plain-ethiopia/
Blog	COVID-19: Coping strategies of rice value chain actors in Tanzania (1)	Ntengua Mdoe, Gilead Mlay, and Gideon Boniface	Tanzania	20/07/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/covid-19-coping-strategies-of-rice-value-chain-actors-in-tanzania-1/
Blog	COVID-19: Coping strategies of rice value chain actors in Tanzania (2)	Ntengua Mdoe, Gilead Mlay, and Gideon Boniface	Tanzania	23/07/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/covid-19-coping-strategies-of-rice-value-chain-actors-in-tanzania-2/
Blog	Impact of COVID-19 on daily labourers and rice commercialisation in Ethiopia (1)	Agajie Tesfaye	Ethiopia	10/08/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/impact-of-covid-19-on-daily-labourers-and-rice-commercialisation-in-ethiopia-1/
Blog	Impact of COVID-19 on daily labourers and rice commercialisation in Ethiopia (2)	Agajie Tesfaye	Ethiopia	13/08/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/impact-of-covid-19-on-daily-labourers-and-rice-commercialisation-in-ethiopia-2/
Blog	Impact of COVID-19 on daily labourers and rice commercialisation in Ethiopia (3)	Agajie Tesfaye	Ethiopia	17/08/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/impact-of-covid-19-on-daily-labourers-and-rice-commercialisation-in-ethiopia-3/
Blog	What role does the hand hoe have in rice production in Morogoro, Tanzania?	Ntengua Mdoe, Gilead Mlay, Aida Isinika, Gideon Boniface, and Christopher Magomba	Tanzania	03/09/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/is-the-basic-hand-hoe-now-obsolete-in-rice-production-in-morogoro-tanzania/

Output	Publication title	Author(s)	Country focus	Date	Link
Blog	What is the future for rice as a strategic crop in Ethiopia?	Dawit Alemu and John Thompson	Ethiopia	05/11/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/what-is-the-future-for-rice-as-a-strategic-crop-in-ethiopia/
Blog	Devastating effect of floods on rice production and commercialisation in the Fogera plain	Dawit Alemu and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	09/11/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/devastating-effect-of-floods-on-rice-production-and-commercialisation-in-the-fogera-plain/
Blog	Rice value chain: Has life returned to normal after lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in Tanzania? (1)	Ntengua Mdoe, Gilead Mlay, and Gideon Boniface	Tanzania	30/11/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/tanzanian-rice-value-chain-has-life-returned-to-normal-after-covid-19-restrictions-1/
Blog	Rice value chain: Has life returned to normal after lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in Tanzania? (2)	Ntengua Mdoe, Gilead Mlay, and Gideon Boniface	Tanzania	10/12/2020	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/rice-value-chain-has-life-returned-to-normal-after-lifting-of-covid-19-restrictions-in-tanzania-2/
Blog	Added challenges for the rice sector in Ethiopia caused by COVID-19	Dawit Alemu and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	18/02/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/the-added-challenges-for-the-rice-sector-in-ethiopia-caused-by-covid-19/
Blog	The triple drivers of rice commercialisation in Fumbisi Valley, northern Ghana (2)	Joseph Awetori Yaro and Ibrahim Wahab	Ghana	22/02/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/the-triple-drivers-of-rice-commercialisation-in-fumbisi-valley-northern-ghana/
Blog	The political economy of rice value chain in Ethiopia: Actors, performance, and discourses	Dawit Alemu and Abebaw Assaye	Ethiopia	15/03/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/the-political-economy-of-rice-value-chain-in-ethiopia-actors-performance-and-discourses/
Blog	Challenges to commercialisation of the rice and cocoa value chains in Nigeria	Emmanuel Remi Aiyede	Nigeria	22/03/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/challenges-to-commercialisation-of-the-rice-and-cocoa-value-chains-in-nigeria/
Blog	Political economy of rice commercialisation in Tanzania: Socioeconomic impact of trade policies, strategies, and programmes	Ntengua Mdoe and Gilead Mlay	Tanzania	29/04/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/political-economy-of-rice-commercialisation-in-tanzania-socioeconomic-impact-of-trade-policies-strategies-and-programmes/
Blog	Political economy of rice commercialisation in Tanzania: Socioeconomic impact of trade policies, strategies, and programmes	Ntengua Mdoe and Gilead Mlay	Tanzania	29/04/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/political-economy-of-rice-commercialisation-in-tanzania-socioeconomic-impact-of-trade-policies-strategies-and-programmes/
Blog	East Africa Rice Conference 2021 kicks off	APRA	East Africa	19/05/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/news/east-africa-rice-conference-2021-kicks-off/
Blog	Key messages and required actions for Ethiopian rice sector development: Outcomes of a national rice conference	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	10/06/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/key-messages-and-required-actions-for-ethiopian-rice-sector-development-outcomes-of-a-national-rice-conference/

Output	Publication title	Author(s)	Country focus	Date	Link
Blog	Gender transformative change critical for nurturing an equitable rice sector in Africa	Joana Rizza Bagano		24/06/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/gender-transformative-change-critical-for-nurturing-an-equitable-rice-sector-in-africa/
Blog	Inclusive and sustainable rice system to transform Kenya's food system: Lessons from the East African Conference	Hannington Odame and Evelyn Otieno	Kenya	06/07/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/inclusive-and-sustainable-rice-system-to-transform-kenyas-food-system-lessons-from-the-east-african-conference/
Blog	Roadmap for Rwanda's rice sector development	Mr. Pascal Furaha	Rwanda	08/07/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/roadmap-for-rwandas-rice-sector-development/
Blog	Rice set to improve Uganda's food and nutrition security	Mr. Paul Lubega	Uganda	19/07/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/rice-set-to-improve-ugandas-food-and-nutrition-security/
Blog	Environmental impacts of commercial rice production in Kilombero Valley, Tanzania	Ntengua Mdoe, Aida Isinika, Gilead Mlay, Gideon Boniface, Christopher Magomba, John Jeckoniah, and Devotha Moshia	Tanzania	02/08/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/environmental-impacts-of-commercial-rice-production-in-kilombero-valley-tanzania/
Blog	Positioning Tanzania in the regional market for rice: Lessons from the East Africa Rice Conference	Aida Isinika & Gideon Boniface	Tanzania	05/08/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/positioning-tanzania-in-the-regional-market-for-rice-lessons-from-the-east-africa-rice-conference/
Blog	Unmasking the socio-economic potential of rice in Burundi: Outcomes of the East Africa Rice Conference 2021	Alphonse Kimararungu and Evelyn Otieno	Burundi	12/08/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/unmasking-the-socio-economic-potential-of-rice-in-burundi-outcomes-of-the-east-africa-rice-conference-2021/
Blog	Building sustainable post-COVID-19 value chains for Africa's rice sector: Outcomes of an East African Dialogue	Evelyn Otieno		19/08/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/building-sustainable-post-covid-19-value-chains-for-africas-rice-sector-outcomes-of-an-east-african-dialogue/
Blog	Rice commercialisation, agrarian change, and livelihood trajectories: Transformations on the Fogera Plain of Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	23/08/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/rice-commercialisation-agrarian-change-and-livelihood-trajectories-transformations-on-the-fogera-plain-of-ethiopia/
Blog	Enhancing nutrition for a stronger, sustainable post-COVID-19 rice sector in Africa	Evelyn Otieno		31/08/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/enhancing-nutrition-for-a-stronger-sustainable-post-covid-19-rice-sector-in-africa/
Blog	Influence of rice commercialisation on poverty reduction levels in Kilombero Valley, Tanzania	Aida Isinika and Ntengua Mdoe	Tanzania	09/09/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/influence-of-rice-commercialisation-on-poverty-reduction-levels-in-kilombero-valley-tanzania/
Blog	Holistic adoption of System of Rice Intensification can increase yields: A case of Mngeta, Kilombero District, Tanzania	Devotha B. Moshia, Amrita Saha, Gilead Mlay, Colin Poulton, and John Jeckonia	Tanzania	27/09/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/holistic-adoption-of-system-of-rice-intensification-can-increase-yields-a-case-of-mngeta-kilombero-district-tanzania/

Output	Publication title	Author(s)	Country focus	Date	Link
Blog	Commercialisation of quality seeds could enhance rice yields in Tanzania	Aida Isinika	Tanzania	25/10/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/commercialisation-of-quality-seeds-could-enhance-rice-yields-in-tanzania/
Blog	The role of small-scale processors in supporting agricultural commercialisation among smallholder rice farmers in East Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia and Tanzania	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia and Tanzania	10/11/2021	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/the-role-of-small-scale-processors-in-supporting-agricultural-commercialisation-among-smallholder-rice-farmers-in-east-africa-lessons-from-ethiopia-and-tanzania/
Blog	Transforming the rice sector in Ethiopia: Lessons from APRA Programme	Hannington Odame and Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	25/01/2022	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/transforming-the-rice-sector-in-ethiopia-lessons-from-apra-programme/
Blog	A way forward for Ethiopia's rice sector: Outcomes of a national event	Hannington Odame and Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	03/02/2022	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/a-way-forward-for-ethiopia-s-rice-sector-outcomes-of-a-national-event/
Blog	Do smallholders face disadvantages to reaping gains from rice commercialisation in Ethiopia?	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler	Ethiopia	22/02/2022	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/do-smallholders-face-disadvantages-to-reaping-gains-from-rice-commercialisation-in-ethiopia/
Blog	Hired labour use, productivity, and commercialisation: The case of rice in the Fogera Plain of Ethiopia	Dawit Alemu	Ethiopia	15/03/2022	https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/hired-labour-use-productivity-and-commercialisation-the-case-of-rice-in-the-fogera-plain-of-ethiopia/

ANNEX 5 – MEDIA MENTIONS



- *Modern Ghana* – Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia rice sector players seek innovative ways of boosting domestic production to meet growing demand
 - <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1080965/sub-saharan-africa-and-asia-rice-sector-players.html>
- *Food Business Africa* – East Africa’s rice sector slated for growth following collaboration among industry players
 - <https://www.foodbusinessafrica.com/east-africas-rice-sector-slated-for-growth-following-collaboration-among-industry-players/>
- *Kenya Broadcasting Corporation* – Rice sector players seek innovative ways of boosting domestic production
 - <https://www.kbc.co.ke/rice-sector-players-seek-innovative-ways-of-boosting-domestic-production/>
- *Farmers Review Africa* – Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia rice sector players seek innovative ways of boosting local production
 - <https://www.farmersreviewafrica.com/sub-saharan-africa-and-asia-rice-sector-players-seek-innovative-ways-of-boosting-local-production/>
- *Africa Business Communities* – East Africa Rice Conference to explore building sustainable and inclusive system
 - <https://africabusinesscommunities.com/agribusiness/news/east-africa-rice-conference-to-explore-building-sustainable-and-inclusive-system/>
- *Startup Weekly* – Rice sector players set for conference on boosting research and inclusivity
 - <https://www.startup-weekly.com/Rice-sector-players-set-for-conference-on-boosting-research-and-inclusivity/>
- *HortiNews* – Conference to highlight role of rice in improving East Africa’s food and income security
 - <https://www.hortinews.co.ke/2021/05/10/conference-to-highlight-role-of-rice-in-improving-east-africas-food-and-income-security/>
- *Tanzania Web* – Utafiti: Vijana ni wanufaika wakubwa biashara ya mpunga
 - <https://www.tanzaniaweb.com/TanzaniaHomePage/NewsArchive/Utafiti-Vijana-ni-wanufaika-wakubwa-biashara-ya-mpunga-513067>
- *IPP Media* – Kilimo Mpunga Chawainua Vijana
 - <https://www.ippmedia.com/sw/biashara/kilimo-mpunga-chawainua-vijana>
- *IPP Media* – Government and rice stakeholders agree to enhance food security in East Africa region
 - <https://www.ippmedia.com/en/business/govt-and-rice-stakeholders-agree-enhance-food-security-ea-regi>

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