

## **IRC2018- Side Event**

### ***Title:* South-South cooperation to boost the rice sector in Africa**

***Target audience:*** Policy makers, funders, development agencies, national programs in Africa and Asia, media, scientists

***Format:*** Workshop and Panel Discussion

***Time:*** October 16; 1430 to 1600 hr

### **Description of the event:**

The concept of South-South cooperation (SSC) has been in use since the Bandung Asia-Africa conference held in 1955, aiming to facilitate and strengthen exchange of knowledge and technology between developing countries and for building resources within and across regions and continents; with countries as agents of change and leaders of the development process. The cooperation is helping to improve research infrastructure, speed technology transfer, facilitate regional integration, and create new jobs specially for youth. This will ultimately build social and economic inclusion and reduce dependence on foreign aid in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Annual demand for rice in SSA is growing at an unprecedented rate, averaging about 6% in recent years, and reaching over 13% in some countries, as in Kenya. Local production currently meets only 55% of the total demand, with the rest met through imports, costing the continent between US\$ 5-6 billion each year. With learning and support from countries that experienced similar situations few decades ago, as in South and Southeast Asia, as well as within SSA, and with support from emerging economies, development agencies and funders, the gap between local supply and demand should substantially be narrowed.

The session aims to provide insights into how SSC can boost efforts to develop the rice-based agri-food systems in SSA, to achieve self sufficiency, eradicate poverty and hunger and ensure food and nutritional security of the region. These efforts will contribute to the accomplishments of the sustainable development goals, as global plan of action for the wellbeing of people and the planet. The session will consist of short presentations by global experts followed by a panel discussion.

The session will be co-chaired by the Director Generals of IRRI (Matthew Morell) and AfricaRice (Harold Roy-Macauley).

**Program:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Regional networks as vehicles for SSC; other issues in Africa	Dr. Abdou Tenkouano	Executive Director, West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD)
How South-South Cooperation has contributed to boosting rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa	Dr. Peter Anaadumba	FAO South-South Cooperation Coordinator Africa Regional Office
Ten- years achievement of CARD and future prospects of CARD next phase	Dr. Tomohiro Azegami	JICA, Japan
SSC and capacity development in Sub-Saharan Africa	Dr. S. K. Pattanayak	Secretary, Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Government of India