



– International Fund for Agricultural Development –
– Identifying and sharing innovation in Western and Central Africa –

– New Rice for Africa (NERICA) –

I. Context

1. Name of the innovation

New Rice for Africa (NERICA)

2. Country – Region

Congo, Sierra Leone and Guinea

3. Organization

West African Rice Development Association (WARDA)

4. Who is the innovator?

WARDA

5. Actors involved

- Rice producers
- Experts in rice cultivation
- National agricultural research and extension systems

6. Starting date

2000

7. Type of innovation

Technological and institutional

II. Key concepts

8. Summary

More than 90 per cent of the rice growers in Western and Central Africa are small farmers, the majority of whom are women, each cultivating less than 1 hectare. The idea behind this innovation is not to replace local varieties of rice with NERICA strains, but rather to incorporate the latter into the range of varieties available to rice growers, combining them with such complementary technologies as rational natural resource management and improved rice marketing and distribution systems. NERICA strains open up new perspectives for rice farmers, not only in Western and Central Africa, but throughout sub-Saharan Africa, because of their main features: short growing cycles, high yields, resistance to major local causes of stress and a pleasant taste. The approach has been extended to at least eight countries in Western Africa in the context of integrated crop management and is based on a methodology of participatory training and research-and-action through improved partnerships. A large number of partners, including farmers, have been trained in the recording of local innovations.

9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?

- Inadequate supply of quality seed
- Losses during the production process
- Insufficient quantities of seed

10. Factors for successful replication

- Resistance to major local causes of stress
- Affordable price
- Short growth cycle and high yield

11. Main results

- Development of complete technical packages encompassing NERICA seed and production practices
- Development of a viable seed multiplication and distribution system (more than 150,000 ha currently under NERICA in Western and Central Africa)
- More efficient sharing of local knowledge about rice growing systems among farmers
- Increase in rice yields (yields are stable under various growing conditions)
- Crop diversification in villages

12. Target group(s)

- Small rice farmers and their organizations (especially women's and young people's associations)
- Research centres in the countries concerned
- National extension services

13. Difficulties encountered

- Limited capacities of national extension institutions
- Often inadequate national policies with regard to seed

14. Financial aspects**III. Technical aspects**

15.

IV. Further information**16. Key contacts**

Name	Organization	E-mail

17. Internet links

- NERICA: www.warda.org/warda/uplandnerica.asp and www.warda.org/warda/newsrelease.asp
- West and Central Africa Rice Research and Development Network (ROCARIZ): www.warda.org/rocariz/

18. Key documents (document title + link or contact or address)