The Sustainable Rice NDC Alliance April Update

The Sustainable Rice NDC Alliance continues supporting nations interested in advancing high-yield, low-emission rice agriculture through top-down initiatives. The core objective of the Alliance is to facilitate the realisation of rice-related NDC commitments and to elevate the ambition of these commitments. This document summarises the Alliance’s initiatives over the last six months, up to April 2024. Please contact the Alliance through James (james@sri-2030.org) or Francesco (francesco@sri-2030.org).

Recent Activities

After our Focus on Finance meeting in October, the Alliance co-organised a panel on Food and Agriculture at the COP28 Resilience Hub in Dubai in November 2023 (the Resilience Hub report highlights the Alliance as a promising example for translating agricultural NDC commitments and food security ambitions into practice). Then, this February, we hosted a workshop in Nairobi with the African Climate Partnership (AfCAP) on African Paddy Rice Greenhouse Gas Mitigation. The event assembled stakeholders from governments and research institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa to identify issues with current GHG mitigation and proposed methods to solve them comprehensively. The Alliance led the session on policy and planning for mitigation and moderated a panel session with representatives from three Alliance member countries - Babacar Gaye from Senegal, Maman Zakara from Mali, and Christopher Kabah from Liberia who together addressed and emphasised the necessity of interconnections between rice-related science and policy.

The Alliance is continuing to work directly with governments to design rice roadmaps with a current focus on West Africa. These are practical implementation plans combining agricultural policies such as National Rice Development Strategies or Climate Smart Agriculture frameworks with climate policy commitments such as those in countries’ NDCs. These systemic plans are intended to facilitate access to large-scale climate finance.

Our upcoming event is a webinar we are organising for Islamic Development Bank staff to raise awareness of high-yield, climate-smart rice production through the System of Rice Intensification (SRI).

Finally, we are happy to have welcomed Angola as a new member of the Alliance, who have since included SRI as a valuable approach within their updated National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS).

Strategy Update

Currently, SRI-2030, the Alliance secretariat, is focusing its support on Africa, as we believe this is where we can maximise our impact. Although we will continue to support all nations pursuing
sustainable rice production, our current assessments indicate that the **increasing focus on African food security has created a political environment receptive to reform and government-led change**, combining the goals of NDC achievement, with cross-department and development bank support.

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**Revised Nationally Determined Contributions for 2025**

To keep ahead of developments we are giving a reminder to all members that per the Paris Agreement, **countries must submit their 2025 NDC revisions between November 2024 and February 2025**. Therefore, as of April 2024, **only 10 months remain** for updating rice-related NDC commitments. We urge Alliance members to consider using rice agriculture as a mechanism for both climate mitigation and adaptation and therefore consider updating rice-related NDC commitments in the 2025 NDC update. The Alliance can assist with this process.

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**Knowledge Resources and Advisory Support**

Going forward, to ensure Alliance members have access to reliable information on sustainable rice, we want to highlight some useful resources.

- **Cornell SRI Website**: This website contains a wealth of information on SRI and includes a library of journal articles, project reports and training material that is curated by Cornell University.
- **The Sustainable Rice NDC Alliance Knowledge Portal**: Our collection of the most useful sustainable rice resources on both the policy and farm level.
- **Our recent papers**:
  - A [journal article](#) that reviews the scientific literature on the quantifiable climate and yield impact of implementing sustainable rice practices. This provides robust emissions data for rice policy decision-making.
  - A [journal review article](#) exploring the synergies arising from the alignment of SRI methods with the principles of Conservation Agriculture (CA) and the modalities to merge the two systems.

We hope you find this update informative and look forward to your continued engagement in our efforts to promote sustainable rice farming. Please do contact us if you would like the assistance of the Alliance with any of the topics mentioned in this email. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,
James, Francesco and the rest of the Sustainable Rice NDC Alliance team

*The Sustainable Rice NDC Alliance*