



African Rice Initiative and NERICA dissemination

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Introduction

Known in only a few countries, particularly in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, until the late 1990s, NERICA is today a crop of hope for millions of Africans. The AU and NEPAD have identified NERICA as a crop that can make a difference in fighting hunger and poverty. ARI is making this happen.





About ARI

- Formed: 2002 by WARDA and partners
- Objective: stimulate and coordinate strategies for disseminating NERICA and other improved rices in SSA
- Donors: Rockefeller Foundation, AfDB, UNDP, Japan, SG2000, FAO





... About ARI

How ARI operates:

- Coordination units established at WARDA and in participating countries.
- Stakeholders' Platforms established in these countries
- Partners such as JICA, SG2000 and other NGOs, and the private sector complement our efforts, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa.





How was NERICA developed?

O. sativa
as female parent



O. glaberrima
as male parent



BC₂F₁ population from *O. sativa* x *O. glaberrima*





What is good in NERICA?

- Earliness of maturity (30–50 days)
- Resistance to local stresses
- Higher yield
- Good taste





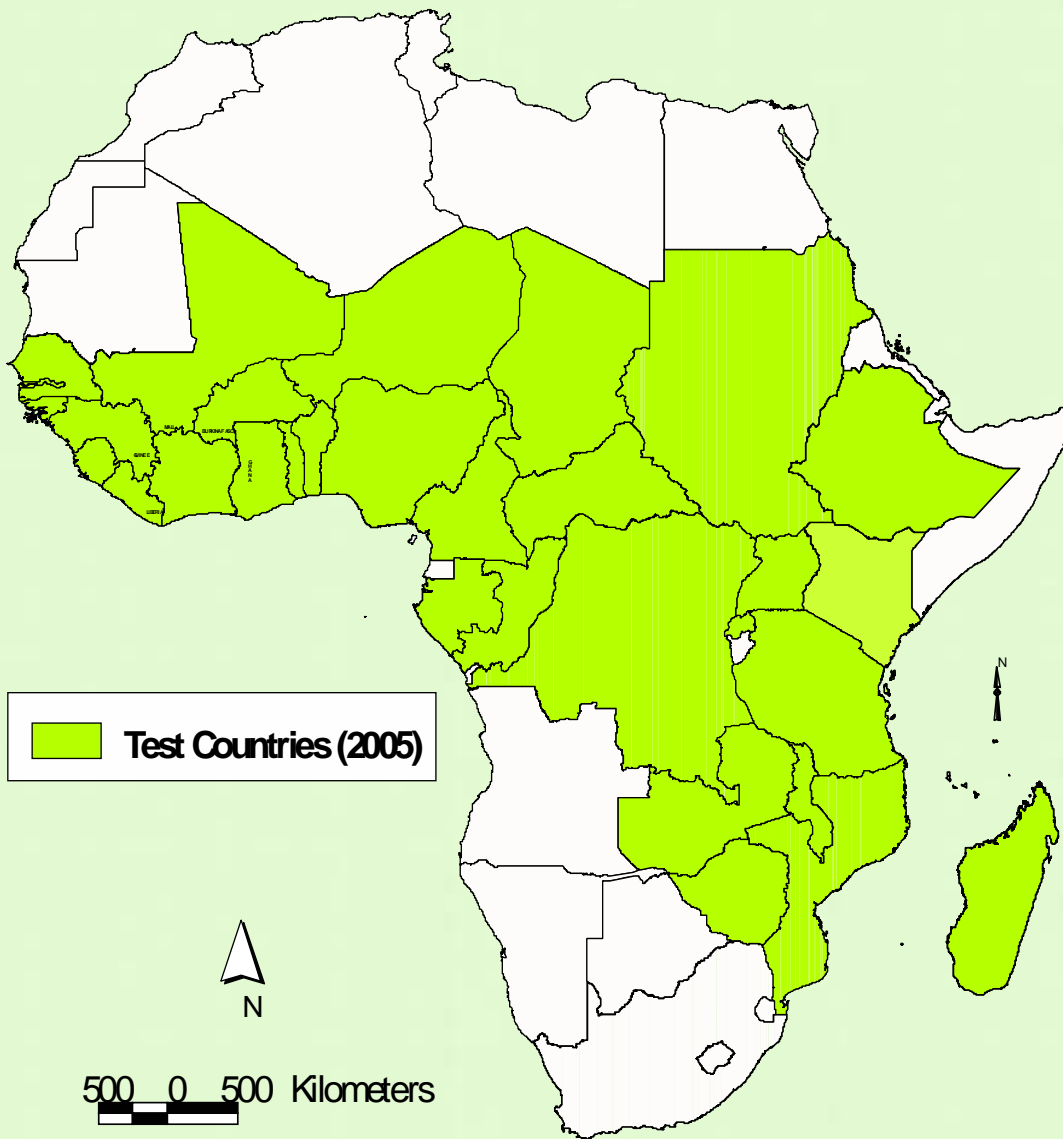
Where are we now?

Status of NERICA dissemination in SSA



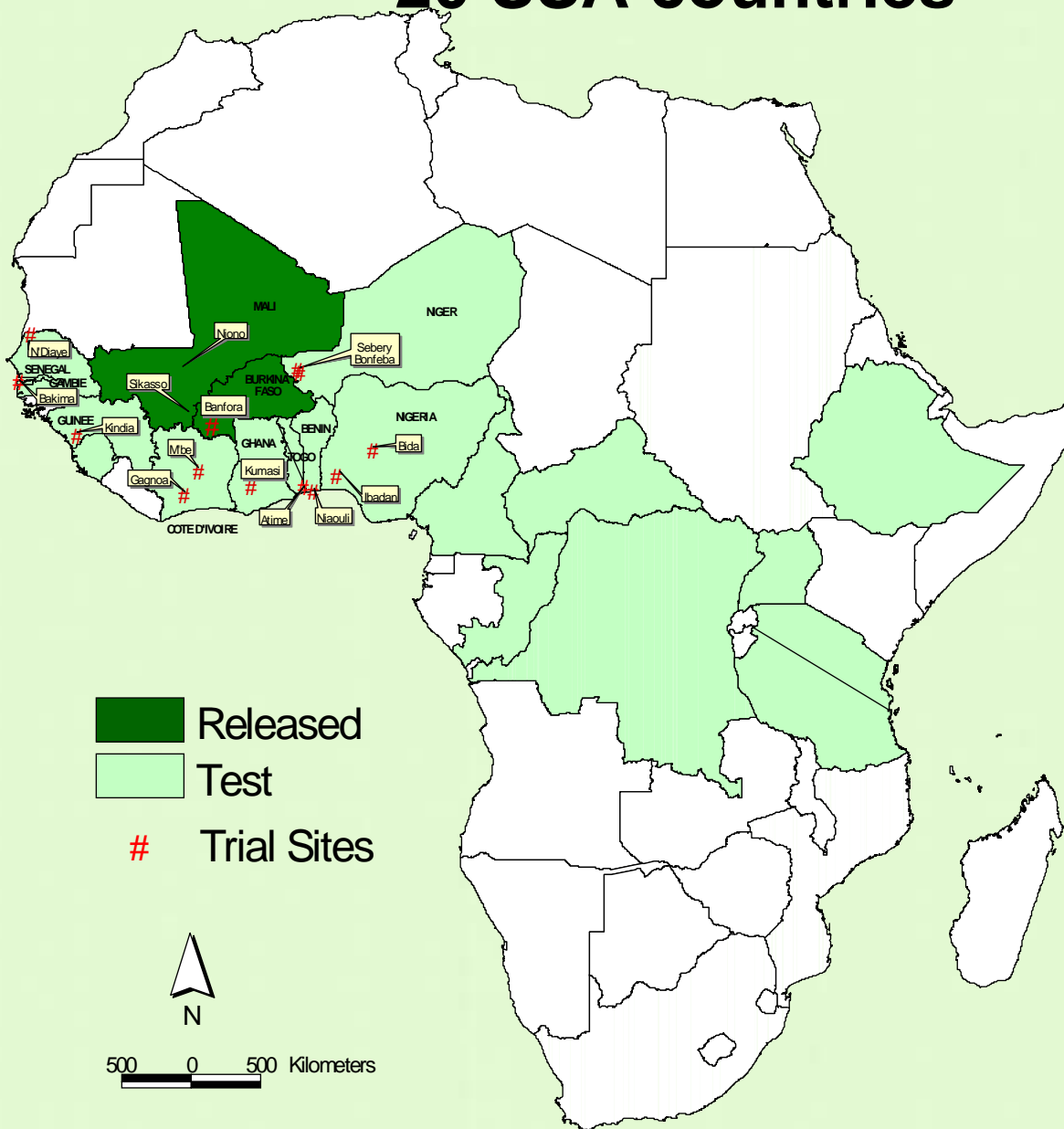


Upland NERICAs tested in more than 30 SSA countries





Lowland NERICAs tested in more than 20 SSA countries





Based on results of PVS:

- 18 upland
 - 60 lowland
- } named

Among the named NERICAs, the following have been released or adopted:





... 17 Upland NERICA varieties adopted/released in about 20 SSA countries

COUNTRY	NERICA																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Kenya	A			A						A	A								4
Madagascar			A	A															2
Mali				R				A	A					A				A	5
Nigeria	R	R	A																3
S. Leone	A	A	A	A	A	A													6
Sudan				A			A												2
Togo	A		A	A															3
Uganda	R		A	R						R									4
Total	11	8	9	13	4	4	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	



Upland sativa lines tested

1. WAB 56 - 50
2. WAB 56 -104
3. WAB 56 -125
4. WAB 181 -18
5. WAB 32-80
6. WAB 365-B-1-H1-
7. WAB 365-B-B-2
8. WAB 224-8-HB
9. WAB 515-B-16
10. WAB 570-10B-1-
11. WAB 189.B.B.B8
12. WAB 340.B.B9.L3
13. TOX 3377
14. WAB 96-1-1
15. ITA 257
16. IDSA 85
17. IR 47701-6-3-1
18. CNA 6675
19. ITA 321
20. Sikassoka (WAB 181-18)
21. Jigifa (WAB 56-104)
22. Kumabani (WAB 189-B-B-B-8-HB).

Adopted/released





NERICA production in Africa

- Over 200,000 ha are reported under NERICA cultivation in SSA countries
- The leading countries are Guinea, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda
- Emerging countries: Benin, Ethiopia, Togo, Mali, The Gambia



Benin



An NGO (Songhai) is promoting NERICA and the private sector (Tunde SA and BRS) is investing in NERICA dissemination

Togo...

NERICA 2 field in Togo



Togo



Tunde
collaborator visiting NERICA
producers

03/08/2007 13:33



Development of complementary technologies

The following agronomic practices to increase the production of NERICA and other improved varieties have been evaluated in selected countries:

- weeding regime
- fertilizer rate and timing
- cropping systems
- water regime

Some preliminary results are available





...Development of complementary technologies

- Weeding twice, 21 & 45 days after germination, or
- One pre-emergence herbicide application + one hand weeding if necessary are sufficient to control weeds in fields growing NERICA





...Development of complementary technologies

Multi-row seed drill developed in Mali (1 ha in 8 hours, 50-60 kg ha⁻¹ seed)





...Development of complementary technologies

Market opportunities for women have been created



NERICA- based processed products:

- developed
- evaluated
- recipes prepared and published





Seed strategy and achievements

Demand for all rice seed, but particularly NERICA, is extremely high and increases season by season. More than 30,000 mt of NERICA 1 seed are projected for 2007 in Nigeria alone by the Presidential Initiative.



A seed strategy was developed to meet the burgeoning demand.



...Seed strategy and achievements

- CBSS approach enhanced
- NARS seed technicians trained
- Strong NARS utilized to produce seeds
- Private sector sensitized to invest in seeds





...Seed strategy and achievements

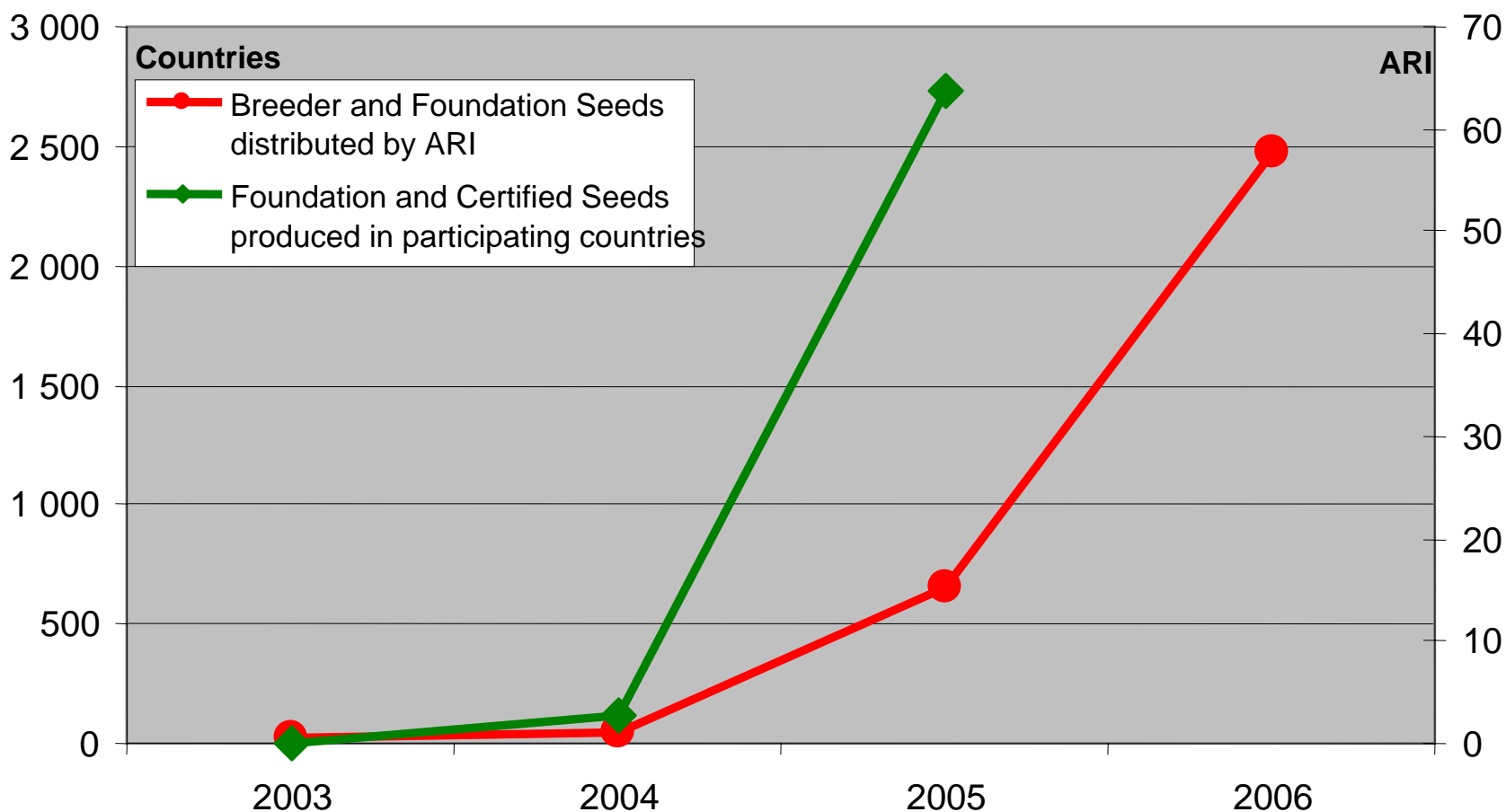
- Between 2003 and 2007, over 180 tonnes of Breeder and Foundation seeds have been produced by the coordination unit of ARI, of which 100 tonnes were in 2007 alone.
- This has facilitated the production of more than 3,000 tonnes of certified seed in the seven pilot countries.





...Seed strategy and achievements

Trends in seed distribution (tonnes)





...Seed strategy and achievements

Seed to post-conflict countries

- Liberia (2 tonnes)
- Sierra Leone (1 tonne)

With logistic support from the UN Mission and FAO





...Seed strategy and achievements

100 tonnes of Foundation seed produced for
Nigeria





Capacity building



Several training sessions conducted on seed production and PVS by WARDA and PCUs – more than 100 technicians trained.





...Capacity building



**Field days and monitoring tours
conducted at regional coordination and
PCU levels**





The way forward

- Seed will continue to be our major target
- Build NARS capacity to enhance seed availability
- Extend Lowland NERICAs to more countries
- Mobilize resources for more countries, especially post-conflict countries





Conclusion



NERICA dissemination is teamwork – the power of partnership. No one can embrace it alone. What we have achieved today is the result of collective effort from WARDA, NARS and partners: AfDB, Rockefeller Foundation, UNDP, Japan, JICA and JIRCAS.

We can only progress with your help as donors.



A photograph of a rooster with a red comb and wattle, and black and brown feathers, standing on a thatched roof. The background is a bright, overcast sky with some green foliage visible on the left. A light blue speech bubble is positioned above the rooster's head, containing the text 'NERICA !!!'. The text 'Thank you!' is written in blue at the bottom right of the image.

NERICA !!!

Thank you!