

Uganda and Madagascar. At least 40% of this target group are expected to be women, and at least 20% youth aged 15-35 years.

Indirect beneficiaries include farm input dealers, equipment fabricators, transporters, micro-finance providers, non-governmental organizations and policymakers. The outputs of the project will be relevant for at least 100,000 rice-farming households in East Africa.

Outputs

- 1. Large-scale adoption of appropriate rice technologies and innovations enhanced
- 2. Knowledge of farmers and other value-chain actors on improved agronomic, post-harvest and marketing practices improved
- 3. Availability of quality domestic rice increased.
- 4. Creation of income-generating entities for women and youths increased.
- 5. Access to markets by rice producers enhanced

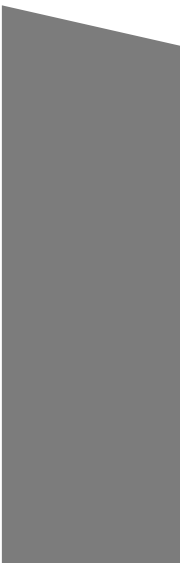
Activities

- 1. Promote promising varieties and agronomic practices for enhanced productivity and reduced yield gap in the rice hubs;
- 2. Promote appropriate seed production practices and delivery mechanisms;
- 3. Enhance the capacity of rice value chain actors in post-harvest management and marketing of quality rice whilst promoting gender-related activities.

Implementing partners: ■ AfricaRice ■ Africa Harvest ■ Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and the National Irrigation Board (NIB) in Kenya ■ National Center for Applied Research on Rural Development (FOFIFA) in Madagascar ■ National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) in Uganda.



**Strengthening the rice sector in
‘East Africa for improved productivity and
competitiveness of domestic rice’ (EARiSS)**





Rice is one of the key strategic crops for food security and a source of income for rice value chain actors in Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar. Despite increases in rice production, the local supply, however, has not been able to meet the growing demand, driven by changing consumer preferences and rapid urbanization. The rice import bill has therefore risen sharply and is estimated at US\$ 500 million per year in East Africa.

The 3-year International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-funded EARiSS project (2019-2022) seeks to enhance the performance of the local rice value chains in the three countries, based on innovative institutional approaches and knowledge products.

It is led by two premier institutes for agricultural development in Africa – the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) and the Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International (Africa Harvest) –

in partnership with national programs in the three countries.

Goal: Enhanced food and income security in Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar

Objectives: Improved productivity and competitiveness of rice value chains and sustainable increase in income of value chain actors with a focus on women and youth. Specific objectives are to (i) adapt appropriate rice technologies and innovations to address emerging rice value chain constraints; (ii) strengthen functional linkages among key rice value chain actors using multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (IPs), and (iii) improve capacity of farmers and other value-chain actors

Target countries: Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar

Target beneficiaries: About 18,000 stakeholders, including rice farmers, seed producers, extension service providers, processors and national research staff in Kenya