

A need and a partner

More about us

“Rice Initiative” - West Africa



Rice production in West Africa is increasing, but so is consumption. The region is still dependent on imports. This is an opportunity for local producers. Smallholder growers can benefit from strong demand. For processors, however, sourcing from large numbers of smallholders can be a challenge. For NGOs, helping farmers improve their harvests may require additional expertise. In both cases, success often comes faster in partnerships.

That is why the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture created its rice initiative.

We started working in West Africa over 30 years ago. Since 2009, we have concentrated on rice. Our aim is to improve farmers' agronomic and production skills, develop rewarding sourcing models, and encourage investment. We have packaged our experience and know-how from around the world to support other organizations working with rice-growing communities – organizations like yours.

Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA)

is a Swiss-based non-profit organization. We focus on enabling smallholders' access to the best technology and advice, raising their yields and linking them to markets. Further information is available on: www.syngentafoundation.org

Farmer Support Services

is an SFSA initiative. Our international Farmer Support Services team works directly with smallholders. With local staff in Senegal, Mali, and Switzerland, we provide expertise in agronomy, business development services, project management and policy. Our rice projects build on strong partnerships with smallholders, processors, research organizations, farmer cooperatives, input suppliers, donors and public authorities.

Would you like to discuss opportunities?
Please contact us:
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Growing opportunities for smallholders in West Africa

Our initiative helps the whole rice value chain

What do we want to achieve?

Our rice initiative has five main objectives:

- Greater productivity
- Better product quality
- Easier access to markets
- Full compliance with production standards
- Higher income for smallholder farmers



What can we offer you?

The Syngenta Foundation offers a wide range of support and expertise. Whether you're a buyer or an NGO, you can choose those elements of our package that will help you succeed.

Examples are:

- Advice on project preparation
- Training tools for good agronomic practices
- Smallholder extension
- Analysis of value chain constraints
- Optimized production protocols
- Remuneration and aggregation models for sustainable sourcing
- Financing models for mechanization
- Metrics and monitoring
- Mobile technology for easier smallholder management: www.farmforce.com



What do our partners say?

Between 2009 and 2015, we supported projects in five countries, raising the productivity and profitability of over 3'000 smallholders. Here is what partners say about working with us:

"Thanks to the combine harvester of the CEMA harvesting my plot was ten times faster compared to manual harvesting. In addition the quality of paddy became better, while the costs stayed the same."

A farmer of the "Centre d'Exploitation de Machines Agricoles (CEMA)" in Senegal

"I have gained confidence through my journey with the Copa Connect Smallholder Program. I have never achieved this yield, never seen my fields being this green before."

A member of the Copa Connect Smallholder Program in Ghana

