National Rice Sector Policy (2010-2015)

SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy paper presents a framework to guide the development of rice in Solomon Islands for the next five years (2010-2015). During its implementation there will be the development of rice that will improve the economy, create more rural employment opportunities, and thus also bring about an improvement in the lives of the rural communities.

Rice farming by rural communities in Solomon Islands is a new initiative. Thus, the need for proper planning is important to ensure its success and long-term sustainability. Since rice is a new crop in rural areas, for farmers to learn rice crop management practices it is likely to take more time compared to traditional crops to which they have been used to. There must also be clear guidelines as what rice production targets the country should achieve so as to reduce the total dependence on rice imports over the years. These targets must be set at the start of the policy implementation.

Rice consumption in the country has steadily increased from 75 to 100 kgs/ person over a very short span of time. In addition, rice consumption continues to increase steadily. There is an imbalance on the supply and demand as current rice production levels cannot meet the consumption. Thus, the country continues to keep on importing its rice requirements. Therefore, it is only wise that the Solomon Islands grow rice locally using low-input methods of rice farming such as the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). This approach will also bring additional benefits of rural employment to engage in the rice production.

Since the government is focusing its policy on rural advancement, engaging rural population in rice production will enhance rural livelihood and encourage more economical participation at the grassroots level. The government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) is expanding its rice production policy from smallholder (1ha) to semi-commercial (5ha) commercial (10ha), and fully commercial (100ha).

However, projects never reach a 100% achievement due to the type of farm power source used. Despite scaling-up, manpower is still used. This causes the problem of not reaching 100% achievement. Economies of scale can only be attained when small farm machines are used (farm mechanization). This is important in achieving timely production. It is also important to know that to increase production; good arable lands located inland must be opened-up by construction of access roads into these lands.

Cooperation between all stakeholders is a vital component in achieving success. All stakeholders, both state and non-state actors, who involve in one way or the other, should be invited to participate in drawing-up the road map of rice development, as well as taking a proactive role in advancing this policy.

This policy paper is structured with the following headings: Purpose, Aims, Historical Background of Rice in Solomon Islands, Initiation of National Rural Rice Development Programme and Current Activities, Technical Rice Cooperation with International Agencies/ Institutions, Rural Development Program within the Farming Systems, Taiwan Technical

Mission Approach to Rice Production, Rice as perceived by Donors and International Non-Government Organizations, Initial Recommended Policy Actions, Policy Implementation, Implementation Constraints, and Time Frame on the Implementation of the National Rice Sector Policy.

INTRODUCTION

Rice is becoming a normal form of energy intake for most of the Solomon Islanders because of its ability to feed more people per kilogram, easy and fast to cook, easy to store for long periods, and its good taste. People of Solomon Islands on an average consume around 100 kilograms (kg) per person per year. In the past year, per capita consumption was only 75 kgs/ per person per year. With the increasing population (2.7% per annum), as well as high demand for rice, consumption of rice will certainly continue to increase; hence importation of rice will also increase, unless rice production is aimed locally. This will certainly put pressure on the national budget. With very fertile soil, abundant rainfall, and sunshine many rice specialists (and those favoring Solomon Islands to be self-reliant in rice), agrees that the country can and should grow its rice locally.

This policy would be implemented over the next five (5) years starting from 2010. This should also be a roll-on from the current National Rural Rice Development Programme (NRRDP). With the current NRRDP project design over-reliance on farm inputs/labor are some of the reasons for low performance. Any project, despite receiving inputs, continue to slag behind would be terminated, and only then a new project would be accepted to replace the one terminated so that rice production is stabilized and increased. Thus to remedy the failures in some projects, focus will be to concentrate on existing projects. New project proposals would be encouraged from time to time.

PURPOSE

Many of the cash crops and other income-generating commodities endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) for development purposes did not undergo proper planning and therefore they never reached commercialization (in the sense of down-stream processing for more value-adding), despite being around for quite a long time. Cocoa and Coconut for instance had been the country's traditional commodities, but very little have been done to develop them into their industrial stage. Smallholders were left alone to bear the burdens of producing, transporting, and marketing, and hence the farmers were left to the mercies of world market prices. Therefore, for rice to become an industry and as a new crop to Solomon Islands, we need proper planning in a systematic manner at its initiation stage so that its development is fully realized. Good planning is essential for its long-term sustainability, benefits to the economy of the country, as well as to the producers. Hence, this policy document is drawn-up to provide a road map for the development of rice to cause tangible developments in agriculture and rural areas (provinces) now and into the future.

AIMS

The aim of this policy document is to provide a road map that will guide and direct the development of this crop in Solomon Islands. Once this policy is implemented, it will have the following benefits:

- **Consumer Health Welfare** – give us option to apply "Good Agriculture Practice" (GAP) through the adoption of organic farming practices.
- **Environmentally Friendly** – because of limited use or absence of synthetic use of pesticides and fertilizers, our environment will not be toxicated.
- **Sustainability** – because of the guided development, sustainability of the industry will be more certain.
- **Industry** – a more systematic developmental approach will climax to the crop becoming an industry which will be beneficial not only to the government, but to the farming population as well.
- **Rural Development** – as the crop develops into its industry stage, rural development will be more pronounced, creating more employment opportunities in the provinces.
- **Rural Economy Improves** – as production increases more marketing channels will be created causing little problem for farmers (smallholders) to sell their produce, and this will improve cash flow in the rural areas.
- **Government Services Improved** – as production increases, the country will be self-sufficient in rice. This will save the Solomon Island Government millions of dollars which can be ploughed back into agriculture or used in other government sectors causing a tangible improvement to the government service delivery system.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF RICE IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Past – Commercial rice production with highly mechanized and calendar-based aerial application of fertilizers and pesticides was done on the plains of Guadalcanal Island by Guadalcanal Plains Limited (GPL) followed by BSA Ltd.--a British Company around mid 1970s and up to 1981. In 1986 this company closed down its operations, due to high insect infestation (rice brown plant hopper), and weather disturbances. Rice variety grown although suitable to local growing conditions did not have a good taste. Thus, Solomon Islanders preferred imported rice, over locally grown rice. However, a single rice importer monopolized the industry for almost two decades resulting in every increasing price hikes and falling product quality.

Present – After the closure of the foreign company in 1986, Solomon Island Government (SIG) established diplomatic relationships with Republic of China (Taiwan) [ROC]. This paved the way to the signing of a Technical Agreement Cooperation between the two countries around 1983 and this lead to the establishment of the Chinese Agriculture Technical Mission (CATM). The main focus of the technical cooperation was on rice development; hence CATM established a demonstration farm opposite King George VI Secondary School. In 1998, CATM expanded its operation to other provinces where they encouraged the smallholder upland rice programme since irrigation was the limiting factor. Planting of rice was done using the conventional methods that required lots of farm inputs.

The period from 1999 to 2002 reflected a bad scenario for upland rice programme, it was the ethnic tension, which caused CATM to send its officers back home and hence the programme collapsed. Since conventional method of rice cultivation depended heavily on external production factors such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, the absence of CATM support led almost all of the smallholder farmers to abandon their rice farms.

CATM returned around 2003 after law and order improved. CATM shifted from smallholder to semi-commercial production (5 hectares) on communal basis. This approach also had its own disadvantages, some of which included: limited land area, lack of manpower, lack of cooperation from members due to mismanagement by local/village leaders. Included were the normal operational problems of fertilizers and pesticides.

From year 2006, CATM (TTM-Taiwanese Technical Mission as it is now called), suspended its assistance to the extension services and reduced its support to the smallholders, as well as semi-commercial farms. This caused more problems to rice farmers as accessing major inputs: fertilizers and pesticides were not easy and inputs were not affordable.

Way Forward – Rice farming in Solomon Islands with rural communities is a new initiative. Thus, rice crop management practices will take some time for Solomon Islands farmers' to adjust to, as they are used to planting traditional crops that require minimal care after planting, in contrast to rice management which requires very close attention after its establishment.

Rice consumption in Solomon Islands will continue to increase because of its comparative advantages over other local foods. This means that the country will continue to lose money to import rice unless rice cultivation is done by smallholders and commercial farmers nationwide. As a matter of fact, local rice production is the way forward. Growing rice locally has their advantage which, in broader sense includes:

- Providing food security
- Protecting our economy
- Providing self-employment and employment opportunities
- Allowing us to choose the type of farming systems to be used to enhance our health and well being
- Paving the way for rural development and industrialization
- Broaden the rural economy base
- Supports and encourage rural livelihoods

Looking at the problems highlighted above which hinders rice development the traditional way, a new system of rice cultivation known as the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), would be the ideal system for Solomon Islanders smallholders, because SRI uses: little or no water (rainfed would be enough), organic fertilizers only, very little or no synthetic pesticides, less seeds (only one per seedling planting per hole), yet the output is higher (50-100%) when compared to conventional methods. Examples of these outputs are: higher yields, higher returns to farmers, and reduce production costs.

INITIATION OF NATIONAL RURAL RICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The National Rural Rice Development Programme (NRRDP) was initiated by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (MAL) in year 2006. This initiation was brought about as a direct result of the ethnic tension (1998-2003) which disrupted many of the major economical activities in the country bringing the economy to a brink of collapse. The SIG noticed that a larger percentage (SBD$140M –CBSI, 2007) of its import bill was spent on rice importation. Thus the SIG continues to supports the NRRDP. In 2008, the SIG further strengthened NRRDP by allocating SBD$ 2.6M in its national budget and SBD$25million in the supplementary budget. Again in 2009 and 2010 the national government allocated SBD$15M and SBD$10M, respectively. This money was used to establish 38 semi-commercial (5 ha), and fully commercial (10 ha and above) rice projects throughout the country. These 38 projects cover a total land area of 455 ha. However to-date (2009) a total of 47 projects had been established. Due to the global financial crisis, that also affected Solomon Islands, most of the agricultural projects have not fully achieved their potential targets. The SIG and development partners should provide greater support to the NRRDP with continued assistance to existing projects, and at the same time new proposals to replace inactive projects, and to increase number of projects in order to achieve the rice production targets.

NRRDP PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Standard operating procedures for appraisal, planting calendar, duration of project assistance, and labour subsidy payments will be followed. Please see Annex 1 for more details.

TAIWAN TECHNICAL MISSION APPROACH TO RICE PRODUCTION

Since the establishment of the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) in 1988, rice development was introduced using conventional methods with smallholders. In Asian rice growing countries, smallholder system has been very successful. Comparing these countries with Solomon Islands, we have similar conditions (limited arable land) although the causes of these conditions differ. Using the conventional methods as promoted by TTM, means that our smallholders will require more seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, good irrigation systems. This will lead to a higher production cost, hence lower return to farmer, and higher selling price to consumer defeating the objective of providing cheaper local rice than the imported rice.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WITHIN THE FARMING SYSTEMS

Rural Development Programme Component 2 (RDP C2) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is currently focusing its agricultural extension and on-farm research strengthening activities in four Solomon Islands provinces: Temotu, Choiseul, Malaita, and Western.

Smallholder crop production and protection problems are addressed within the farming systems. Rice among smallholders in these and other provinces is becoming very popular within the agricultural landscapes, and thus RDP together with MAL must also sufficiently address rice production and protection concerns of smallholders. The program should be used to promote agricultural development in the rural areas both with smallholders and large-scale sectors. Other areas to open-up for the purpose of boosting agriculture development are infrastructure in the sense of constructing feeder roads into agricultural opportunity areas, and marketing infrastructures such as storage sheds and local transportation.

TECHNICAL RICE COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES/ INSTITUTIONS

International cooperation has been reached with the premier rice institutes in the Philippines: International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice). These two institutions have started to cooperate along with MALs' initiatives by sharing global and Philippine bred rice germplasm so as to identify suitable rice varieties suitable for Solomon Islands ecosystems, as well as varieties that are resistant to Brown Plant Hopper, a pest which poses threats to rice development and promotion. In addition both institutes have started to share rice technical information/technologies that will be suitable for Solomon Islands.

Recently, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has also expressed willingness in collaborating with MAL in rice development and human resources capacity building. Several years back, JICA has provided specialized training on rice cultivation for two rice officers of MAL.

MAL would be pursuing the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) with Cornell University, USA and other SRI partners globally to encourage rice farmers in Solomon Islands to adopt the new technique. JICA has also expressed willingness in supporting MAL with its SRI promotion. This cooperation should be expanded and maintained to encourage further work on SRI.

The Solomon Islands Government Cabinet has approved to cabinet papers to further strengthen rice development in the country:

- Bilateral Agricultural Technical Agreement Cooperation between the Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.
- System of Rice Intensification (SRI): Why there is a need to promote with smallholders in Solomon Islands Farming Systems.

RICE AS PERCIEVED BY DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Very few donor agencies are funding SIG to promote local rice production. Very recently some International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs) have expressed their support to promote

rice production using SRI methods with smallholders. Oxfam for instance conducted a research into consumers' preference of rice and found that a larger majority of Solomon Islanders love eating rice. Hence, encourages SIG to produce its own rice. Thus, memorandums of understanding (MOU) have been signed with several INGOs towards promotion of SRI in Solomon Islands.

INITIAL RECOMMENDED POLICY ACTIONS

The following policy actions needs to be taken by the Solomon Islands Government to put in place this policy, so as to promote local rice production, processing and marketing.

1. The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, and other Education Authorities must advocate and emphasize self-reliance in rice production. This includes all boarding educational institutions (primary, secondary, tertiary (college, university, Rural Training Centers, Vocational Training Centers).

2. The following Ministries and private organizations should be the stakeholders in rice production:

a) Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
b) Ministry of Infrastructure and Development
c) Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Metrology
d) Ministry of Finance and Treasury
e) Ministry of Trade & Commerce
f) Ministry of Health and Medical Services
g) Local/International NGOs
h) Private Sector

At the provincial level the following stakeholders must be recognized and included:

a) Provincial Agriculture Extension Services
b) Provincial Government
c) Community Based Organizations
d) Tribal chiefs
e) Village elders
f) Youth & Women groups

3. The SIG through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and Ministry of Commerce, Employment and Industries work together to set-up Rice Farmer Associations/Cooperatives.
4. Project owners' equity contribution: It is important that project owners should contribute 20-30% of total project cost in cash or in kind to instill a sense of ownership towards the recipients towards the project, this would also ensure the sustainability of the project in the event that funding for the project comes to an end.

5. Removal of government import taxes/duties imposed on all agricultural farming inputs including all kinds of machineries needed for rice production, processing, and storage so as to make them cheaper and affordable to rural farmers.

6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to train rice Extension and Research Officers both in-country and internationally in critical integrated rice production and development areas such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI), irrigation and farm engineering, agronomy, integrated pest management, post harvest, storage, processing, marketing, etc. In addition, recruit through bilateral agreement a qualified irrigation engineer to design and rehabilitate irrigation systems.

7. More efforts will be directed on the role of rural women in rice farming in particular so has to have gender equity and as division of labor.

8. A cheaper way of producing rice should be under taken which does not totally rely on calendar –based application of external inputs. System of Rice Intensification (SRI) holds the key for the future of rice production in Solomon Islands.

9. Issues covering the utilization of rice by-products such as rice hull, rice bran for value-addition should be pursued.

10. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to set rice production targets that are realistic and achievable, taking into account limited land area and manpower, and the current rice importation quantities.

11. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) to set-up a committee to screen applications for the importation of rice, to ensure the quality and monitor the quantities of rice imported. On receiving an application for rice importation by the Quarantine Division at MAL, it should be screened by the Quarantine Division in consultation with the Rice Technical Team members prior to the issuance of the import permit(s). This mechanism will further continue to ensure that rice imported into the country is of high quality, and with this mechanism the NRRDP can also track the quantities of the rice importation into the country from the originating countries, as well as protect the smallholder interests and local rice industry as a whole. In addition, any consignment (either as processed rice or unprocessed rice), without any proper documents should be confiscated and MAL will become responsible for its proper disposal.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented in the following manner:

I. Nurturing of Existing Projects

Since many of the existing projects under the current NRRDP have not yet attained their full potential targets. Thus continued SIG support to overcome these limitations is essential. There are 47 existing projects that will still be continued to be supported until the potential targets are attained. Constraints will be identified and remedied.

II. Consultation

Consultations between all stakeholders involved in rice production must take place. This would include both government and private sectors. The purpose is to inform all stakeholders of the policy and programs involved so that all actors can play their part to support the policy and see other business opportunities that may arise. Consultations should include:

1. Government Ministries:

- All senior officials including junior staff at MAL headquarters and at provinces. This also includes representatives from various line ministries.

2. Private Sectors:

- Rice sellers
- Rice importers/wholesalers in the country – Solrice, QQQ Holdings, Auspac, Beauty Yuk, Harvest Pacific, Sol Ltd, Punjas (SI), etc.
- Input suppliers/importers – Farmset, Island Enterprise, Tongs, SET Marketing, Harvest Pacific, etc.
- Lead Rice Farmers – 2 from each province
- Interested national or international companies interested in investing in rice farming in the country.

3. **Statutory Bodies –** CEMA, etc.

III. Identification of Production Centers

Rather than generalizing rice production throughout the country, it would be rationale to identify provinces that will participate in rice program considering availability of arable land, population pressure and other factors. It would be good to have guidelines and criteria for identification of suitable sites for rice production. A lad tenure system that allows for customary land to be leased would be pursued in order to open-up potential agriculture areas for rice production. This type of development can never be realized when potential land is sitting idle in some provinces due to resource owners lacking the capacity and capacity to develop their land. In such situation, a joint venture arrangement may be an option. On the other hand the land may be leased to developer, regardless of nationality to develop a commercial rice farm.

IV. Determining Production Targets

As a guideline the MAL should decide on whether the country is pursuing 100% self-sufficiency in rice or only a 50%. A 100% self sufficiency would only be possible if Agriculture Opportunity Areas (AOA) are developed and ex-GPL rice lands on Guadalcanal plains revisited. If AOAs are not developed then a 100% self sufficiency is not possible. Once production targets are set, then each province is allocated its production target.

V. Project Submission

Each participating province is to identify and select eligible farming communities. Eligible communities are then assessed and proposals drawn-up by the Provincial Agriculture Extension Services (PAES). Once this is done, proposals are then submitted to MAL for final project compilation, and submitted for cabinet approval and budget support.

VI. Inter-Ministry Consultation

a) Once projects are endorsed and approved by Cabinet, MAL to liaise with other line Ministries (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development) for the arrangements and release of machineries (earth moving machines), and landing craft for transportation of machines. These machines will be used in constructing access roads and land clearing.

VII. Memorandum of Understanding

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock shall sign this document with other line Ministries and other private companies and organizations who would be engaged in this programme to make it legally binding so that obligations and responsibilities are clear towards cooperation.

VIII. Road Construction and Land Clearing

Most of good arable lands are located inland. Therefore to increase agricultural development for greater output, these lands must be accessed. It is important that agricultural roads (access roads) must be constructed to open-up these lands. Equally important, large developments as this and for the fact that these lands are located on primary forest, land clearing must be done by machine to speed-up development. It was experienced throughout the country that even 5 ha could not be fully developed due to drudgery of work. Economy of scale cannot be achieved in time even if a good number of manpower is available.

IX. Tendering

Out-sourcing of input supply is important for a timely implementation. Required inputs should be divided into several categories. Companies should bind to supply one category of input only so that the inputs arrived in time in the country. Where this is not possible, then one company can be awarded several categories.

X. Disbursement of Inputs

To deliver inputs in time to the projects, the MAL shall be doing charters.

XI. Training

MAL to train Extension and Research Officers from the production centers (provinces), specializing in rice production to supervise rice development in the production centers. Equally important is that project managers must also be trained in business to ensure profit-making. Business areas would include: simple book keeping, simple accounting, budgeting, and price setting.

XII. Rice Planting

It would be economically wise and a means of pest control when the whole area is planted in a synchronized manner. Planting the whole land in one cropping season and achieving two or three crops per year would bring a higher return to the farmer as it will mean doubling or tripling the cultivated area without increasing land size. This will result in an increase in total production per year. To achieve this, again requires using planting and harvesting machines. The use of machinery is a must if this crop is to go commercial.

XIII. Rotational Crops

It would be advisable to plant rotational crops after the rice cropping season, to maintain farm income during the rice off season, to improve the soil structure and fertility and to reduce the infestation of pests by planting leguminous and other short term economical crops.

XIV. Monitoring and Evaluation

For the purpose of monitoring and supervision, PAES must post one officer to each project. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to include a budget component in each project budget for a staff house. Daily supervision and monthly monitoring is to be done by the project officer. Copy of this monthly monitoring must be sent to Provincial Rice Coordinators and Chief Field Officers for reporting purposes to MAL. Bi-annual evaluation shall be done by officers from MAL under the leadership of National Rice Coordinator or/and Deputy Director (Project).

IMPLEMENTATION CONSTRAINTS

There are several areas that can hinder the implementation of this policy. These include:

I. Political-Will

Any Government will very likely continue to support the NRRDP and this policy, as initial gains are clearly evident at the national scale on local rice production, and benefits to rural livelihoods.

An indicator of political-will will be shown by prioritizing agriculture development as top priority backed by an increase in its national budget allocation. Government should include other line ministries and developmental partners (e.g. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, logging companies, bilateral/multilateral funding agencies, International NGOs), to assist in local rice production by out-sourcing various activities such as access road construction, land clearing, and irrigation system construction). The government should also exempt import tax on all agricultural farming inputs so that they will be affordable by all class of farmers.

II. Skill Manpower

Government is to train rice extension and research officers on rice and rice-based farming techniques, as well as getting a qualified irrigation engineer probably under Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), or other bilateral agreements. Equally important, project leaders (farmer) must be trained in business, in the areas of simple book keeping, simple accounting, budgeting, and price setting.

III. Land Ownership

Customary ownership always hinders agricultural developments. All semi-commercial and commercial projects should provide legal documents (court rulings) that prove ownership. Tribal/clan ownership of projects (rather than one person or family) is another option to take to minimize land disputes.

IV. Manpower

As experienced with the current NRRDP, manpower shortage creates problem in not fully developing or achieving potential production area. Even with semi-commercials (5 ha) clearing the full area and planting it out was never achieved. With the current NRRDP, most of the approved projects still have to complete clearing the land. Most only achieved 20% of their target (10 ha). If the country wants to see tangible results (increased production, successful projects) in a short period, selective farm mechanization using small farm machineries must be adopted. Selective mechanization ensures that farm labor is not displaced but enhanced.

V. Arable Land Availability

The topographical formation of our islands limits the availability of good arable lands which are easily accessible. The only accessible arable land is located on the Guadalcanal plains. Considerable amounts of good arable land, known as Agriculture Opportunity Areas (AOA), exists on the other bigger islands but are not accessible because they are located inland. The approach the government should take to increase local rice production is to: 1) adopt both semi-commercial, fully commercial and smallholder production. Semi- and fully-commercial undertakings are easily disintegrated therefore, smallholder would act as a cushion against any shocks and to open up the AOAs by construction of access roads into these lands.

VI. Mismanagement

Project committees must be responsible and accountable. The project committee chairperson must be someone respected and honest.

TIME FRAME ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL RICE SECTOR POLICY (2010-2015).

Policy Issues	Time Taken (yr)	Responsible Authority	Indicators
Nurturing Existing Projects	2010-2011	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)	Number of successful projects
Consultations	March-May 2010	MAL	Number of consultation meetings, number of resolutions taken
Identification of Production Centers	June 2010	MAL	Meetings taken
Determining Production Targets	June 2010	MAL, Ministry of Finance, National Reform and Planning (MFNRP)	Meetings taken
New Project Submission	2011-2012	MAL	Number of new projects approved
Memorandum of Understanding	2010-2011	MAL	Number of MOU signed
Access Road Construction, Land Clearing	2011-2015	MAL, (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development (MID)	Number of roads constructed/kilometers, hectare of land cleared
Tendering Process of Inputs for New Projects	2012	MFNRP, MAL	Number of tenders approved
Disbursement of Inputs for Old and New Projects (Provinces)	2010-2015	MAL, Companies	Inputs delivered to projects
Training of Staff and Farmers	2010 (staff) 2010-2015 (farmers)	MAL, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD)	Number of project leaders and extension staff trained
Rice Planting	2010-2015	MAL, Provincial Agriculture Extension Services (PAES), farmers	Number of hectares planted, production recorded (kg/mt) Smallholder (100ha), 300t Semi-Commercial (100ha), 300t Commercial (400ha), 2,000t Fully commercial (500ha), 2,500t
Monitoring and Evaluation	Monthly 2010-2015 March/September every year (2010-2015)	MAL, PAES	Number of visits done, number of reports submitted

ANNEX: 1

NRRDP PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Appraisal Procedures:

1. Letter of intent from interested groups to the Chief Field Officer (CFO) or Permanent Secretary (PS) of the MAL
2. Extension services to carry out field assessment
    a. Land availability (free of disputes)
    b. Manpower availability
    c. Availability of water source
3. Extension to draw-up project proposal
4. Endorsement from CFO Provinces.
5. Signing of MOU and Land Use Agreement
6. Sent to MAL headquarter for final project approval

Rice Cropping Calendar:

1. January – April (first crop)
2. May – August (second crop)
3. September – December (crop rotation)

Duration of Project Assistance:

1. Year 1: Full Assistance
2. Year 2: Completion of any outstanding support, technical and mechanical support
3. Year 3: Technical support only

Labour Subsidy Payment:

1. Land Clearance
    a. Virgin forest areas: SBD$10,000.00 per ha
    b. Secondary bush: SBD$5,000.00 per ha
    c. Grasslands: SBD$3,000.00 per ha
2. Planting: [contract (25 x 50 m)] SBD$300.00
3. Weeding: [contract (25 x 50 m)] SBD$300.00
4. Harvesting: [contract (25x 50 m)] SBD$400.00

Currency Conversion: 1 US$ = 7.50 SBD$ (as of 29th January, 2010)