

# SUSTAINABLE RICE FOR ALL



## Fewer greenhouse gas emissions from rice fields and better market access for farmers

Rice provides a living for roughly 20% of the global population and functions as a staple food for 3.5 billion people. By 2050 global demand is expected to increase by 25%. This, along with its sizeable environmental footprint, makes change in the rice sector vital in order to transition to sustainable food systems.

**The sector must not only reduce its environmental impact but also provide decent profits and working conditions for all actors along the value chain, especially smallholder farmers.**

## Our approach

- **Sustainable rice cultivation:** To raise productivity in a sustainable way, we promote the use of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) Standard for Rice Cultivation to minimise climate change impacts.
- **Market inclusion for both consumers and producers:** Consumers benefit from affordable and nutritious rice while smallholder producers are involved in inclusive business relations to ensure business growth.
- **Enabling environment:** Policy and legal frameworks provide a solid basis for contract farming and for scaling the SRP Standard.



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## Three cross-cutting themes drive our work

The SRP Standard provides a framework to tackle challenges related to all three of them.



**Gender equity:** Women are empowered within the rice sector to be able to access and control the benefits derived from their participation.



**Youth inclusion:** Rice production is largely in the hands of ageing farmers. Involving more young people in the whole rice value chain is crucial for its sustainability.



**Climate change:** Rice is both victim of and contributor to climate change. We aim at climate mitigation, climate adaptation and productivity intensification to counteract the impact of climate change.

## Our partners include:

- Over 50,000 **rice producers**, members of 57 rice producers' groups, associations, **cooperatives and parboiling unions**
- Local and international **rice buyers** such as Superindo, Natural Farm, Tan Hong Rice Company, SWT rice, Bongomin Group, YARA and Bralima
- **Research institutes** such as IRRI, INERA and Kilombero Rice Research Institute
- Other **NGOs**, such as Kilimo Trust, Africa Rice, Preferred by Nature, Agriterra, Trias and SCOPEInsight
- **Local and national governments**
- **Sector platforms** such as the Sustainable Rice Platform and the Tanzania Rice Council
- **Funders** such as the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD), AGRA and NORAD (CISU).

### Targeting our 2026 ambitions



**100,000** smallholder farmers sustainably producing **100,000** tons of affordable, healthy and nutritious rice, according to the SRP Standard, on **40,000** ha

**100** farmer organisations



**2 million** mainstream consumers in **20** medium and large cities in Asia and Africa

**200** young entrepreneurs of whom **50%** are women, to set up businesses to provide services to the various rice chain actors.



Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Mali  
Senegal



DR Congo  
Tanzania  
Uganda



Vietnam  
Indonesia



*"From West Africa to Indonesia, Rikolto has been coaching farmers to change their practices in line with the Sustainable Rice Platform Standard. The switch to sustainable rice cultivation has proven to be good for farmers, consumers and our planet."*

*Catur Utami Dewi, Global Rice Programme Coordinator*

## Our track record

- Strides towards **sustainable rice cultivation** have already been made: as a member of the SRP, we have seen 1760 farmers from 12 farmer organisations in 7 countries obtain an average score of 73 in their first SRP pilots. The SRP pays particular attention to combatting **climate change**.
- We supported the construction and equipping of four modern parboiling centres in Benin, Burkina, Niger and Senegal, enabling women to get a higher selling price for their rice. We hope to continue this trend towards **gender equity**.
- In order to ensure **market inclusion**, we have facilitated **inclusive business relations** globally. Our partner farmer organisations in Indonesia exported organic rice to markets in Europe and Australia. In Benin, farmers send their fair-trade rice to Belgium. In the DR Congo, our partners supply one of the country's largest breweries. In West Africa, farmers' organisations have become key actors in "institutional purchasing", selling to public sector institutions, school canteens and government programmes.
- "The Rice Offensive", a West African regional initiative to reach rice self-sufficiency by 2025, shows that we are fully committed to **cultivating an enabling environment**. The initiative is supported by partnership between Rikolto, CRCOPR and ECOWAS.



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