

Preface

Africa where food production has been stagnant and people do not have access to sufficient food for living and are at risk for their lives. The number of poverty in Africa is still increasing. The government of Japan announced an initiative in TICAD III held in May 2008 and launched the Coalition for African Rice Development initiative (CARD), which aims at doubling the African rice production within the next decade to meet the recent rapid-increase of rice demand.

CARD was jointly suggested by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). In this situation, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) has come to carrying out the project “The Study of Improvement of Soil Fertility with Use of Indigenous Resources in Rice Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa” as commissioned by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan, during 2009-2013. This project had the objective as to develop and demonstrate technologies for sustainable soil fertility management with effective application of indigenous resources in Africa with the cooperation of the Soil Research Institute (SRI) and Crop Research Institute (CRI) under the CSIR, University for Development Studies (UDS), as well as Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Ghana. This project has yield fruitful results which will contribute to increasing and sustaining the rice productivity in Ghana.

The workshop on this project was held 15-16 October 2013 at the UDS International Conference Center, Tamale, Ghana, to discuss the developed technologies for sustainable soil fertility with use of indigenous resources in the Equatorial forest and Guinea savanna agro-ecological zones of Ghana. We do hope that the proceedings of the workshop will provide useful practices and contribute to its wider use in Ghana and in many African countries. Those proceedings had been selected and peer-reviewed, aiming to present our findings and to disseminate those established technologies to a larger number of readers through this current JIRCAS Working Report.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to MoFA and the project members of Ghanaian institutions, chiefly CSIR-SRI and UDS. We would appreciate to JICA, the Japanese Embassy in Ghana who gave us kind cooperation and meaningful advices in implementing of the project. To end, I would thank to all contributors of papers in this Working Report and cordially apologize this delayed publication.

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