



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
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Technologies for African
Agricultural Transformation



TAAT

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)

COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

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**US Secretary of State
Antony Blinken Hails
TAAT Programme**



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The United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken has praised the African Development Bank Group for its exceptional efforts to help Africa feed itself through its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme.

“Extraordinary work is being done to get to where Africa feeds itself and where Africa feeds the world. I’m convinced that can happen,” Secretary of State Blinken said during a visit hosted by African Development Bank Group President Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina in Abidjan on Tuesday.

Welcoming Secretary Blinken, President Adesina said, “This is the first time that a US Secretary of State would visit the African Development Bank and its work. Secretary Blinken’s visit is historic and provides great momentum for our work to feed Africa. I applaud Secretary Blinken’s strong leadership and commitment to food security and look forward to working closely with him and the US government to advance our joint efforts to support Africa to feed itself and help feed the world.”

The two met at the headquarters of AfricaRice—a pan-African centre of excellence for rice research, development, and capacity building that leads the TAAT Rice Compact alongside other partners. The TAAT Rice Compact is being implemented in 16 countries and has recorded increased incomes of households of the programme’s beneficiaries by 32% (from US\$459 to US\$604) and increased rice production by more than 1 million tons through the adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious varieties, the use of quality seeds and training of beneficiaries in good agricultural practices.

The TAAT Rice Compact Showcase



During the visit, Secretary Blinken and President Adesina participated in the TAAT Rice Showcase, which allowed the August visitors to interact with the beneficiaries of the TAAT Rice Compact in Ivory Coast. The showcase, which was led by the Director General of AfricaRice, Dr Baboucarr Manneh, comprised a display of climate-resilient and high-yielding rice varieties, GEM rice parboiling equipment developed by the compact, and women rice processors and distributors from the TAAT Rice Innovation Platform in Bouaké, Ivory Coast.



At the end of the showcase, Secretary Blinken remarked that **“the African Development Bank is making the necessary investments in sustainable production in a smart, effective way through its TAAT programme by maximising crops and producing crops that can stand up to climate change.”**

Beyond crops such as rice, Secretary Blinken said the Biden administration was convinced that there is tremendous potential in investing in the production of crops that are climate-resilient and highly nutritious, including some of Africa’s neglected traditional foods.



«Today I met a passionate scientist, a young female farmer, and a talented group of manufacturers who, with the support of the African Development Bank through the TAAT Programme, are working to improve food security, develop climate resilient technologies, and create sustainable economic growth in Africa,» Secretary Blinken added.

Thanking the US for its support to the Bank Group’s key agricultural initiatives, Dr. Adesina said: “I applaud the work President Biden is doing for global food security. I’m delighted with our partnership with the US Government to help us move forward on food security in Africa.”

\$9.5 million boost for TAAT Phase II



Dr. Adesina also thanked Secretary Blinken for a new grant of \$9.5 million to support the TAAT programme. The grant, a part of the larger US Government’s “Feed the Future” global hunger initiative, will be used for the second phase of the Bank programme, TAAT II, to help African countries increase food production, introduce climate-smart technologies, and expand extension services. To date, TAAT has deployed climate-resilient agricultural technologies and fertilisers to 13 million African farmers in 40 African countries to help boost the continent’s food production and food security. The USAID grant will help expand the reach of TAAT II further.

The United States will work with the African Development Bank to identify opportunities to partner with the US State Department’s Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) activities and develop an investment strategy.

TAAT aims to double the productivity of staple crops, livestock, and fisheries by making proven technologies available to more than 40 million agricultural producers by 2025. This will produce an additional 120 million tons of food.

President Adesina commends
TAAT e-catalogues



President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina has hailed the introduction of e-catalogues by Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT).

President Adesina expressed his satisfaction with the e-catalogues after exploring the platform during US Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s

visit to AfricaRice headquarters in Abidjan for the TAAT Showcase.

“The platform provides real access to all TAAT technologies with an interface that facilitates effective interaction with farmers, public and private sector partners. This is impressive,” Dr Adesina said.

TESTIMONIES DURING THE TAAT RICE SHOWCASE



Ms CAMARA Aissatou

My name is Camara Aissatou, a rice parboiler and President of SCOOPS-FG and the Rice Innovation platform based in Bouaké. We started working with the TAAT programme in 2018 and received the GEM parboiling technology. Before, we used wood for steaming, which caused a lot of smoke. With the GEM parboiler, we use rice husk, which is a clean fuel that doesn’t blacken our pots. Before the GEM system, we used to parboil 5 bags of rice a week, but now we parboil 50 bags a week. We used to sell our rice at 350 FCFA per kg because of its poor quality, but thanks to the new technology, we sell 1 kg of rice at 1000 FCFA. The increased volume and better results have boosted my income, and today I can easily send my children to school and university. We encourage TAAT to continue supporting women groups to acquire this GEM parboiler, as this is an activity dominated by women in Africa.



Mrs. KOUADIO Anick Natacha

My name is Natacha Anick KOUADIO, I am the Director of SION Service Entreprise and President of the Côte d’Ivoire Rice Distributors Association. My interest in the TAAT programme is in the marketing of domestic rice produced by women parboilers. To achieve this objective, we have organised awareness campaigns to explain



the advantages of consuming parboiled rice. Two of these advantages are its high vitamin content and very low glycemic index. We supply low-glycemic rice to people who want to prevent diabetes or who are managing diabetes. Personally, my business has grown considerably. Previously, I only had one store in Bouaké. Due to the high demand for domestic rice, I opened another store in Abidjan. Demand for this rice is very high, and we're not in a position to meet it, as we still have a long way to go to produce quality ORYLUX 6 paddy, which is the raw material for the production of low-glycemic rice.



Mr. COULIBALY Souleymane

My name is Souleymane COULIBALY, equipment designer and manufacturer working for the By2R company. As beneficiary of TAAT, we received training in the manufacture of post-harvest equipment, in particular the GEM parboiling system. This system uses the rice husk as an energy source, instead of firewood which reduces deforestation. After our training, we built and installed over 20 systems in Côte d'Ivoire. This has created new jobs for the young people working with me. My business has also grown, and our sales have doubled from 3,000,000 CFA francs a year to around 23 million CFA francs a year.



Ms Françoise NIANGNE

I'm Mrs Françoise NIANGNE, Manager of Société Coopérative, Agriculture Nouvelle Génération (ANGE). After participating in TAAT capacity building sessions, we received improved rice varieties from the seed companies, with yields of over 6T/ha, as opposed to the traditional seeds, which yielded 2.5T/ha. There has been a considerable positive impact on my socio-economic situation, for example with my daughter, whom I have moved to a school of excellence. We would like the TAAT programme to continue so that other women who are interested can benefit from it.



MR YEO KADOKAN INZA

My name is YEO KADOKAN INZA, I am the CEO of the seed company SIMAPRES. This company is part of the Union des Sociétés Semencières de Côte d'Ivoire (USSEM-CI), of which I am the Vice-President. This union is an offshoot of our collaboration with the TAAT Rice Compact. Before, our sector was not organised because of the difficulties of access to pre-basic seeds. Right from the inception of the TAAT Programme in 2018, TAAT Rice Compact has provided us with Pre-basic seeds with high-yielding varieties that are resilient to climate change and much loved by our consumers. With the varieties from the TAAT, we have considerably improved the quality of our local rice, with the creation of seed brands and bags of white rice on the market. Among these seeds, the ORYLUX-6 variety is highly appreciated by women who parboil rice. All the seed brands and products I'm presenting to you today are the fruit of this partnership, which enables young entrepreneurs like me to make a living from the seed business and, above all, to offer jobs to our farmers. Over the period 2022-2023, we produced 4,800 tons of certified seed, which we distributed to 120,000 farmers who also benefited from our support. This has improved their yield from 2 tons to 6 tons/ha. We would like the TAAT Programme to be strengthened with funding for seed conditioning centers equipped with suitable storage infrastructure, to enable us to meet the needs of a greater number of farmers.



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