



## SUMMARY

# Improving rice self-sufficiency policies in West Africa: Challenges and opportunities

*Proposed by the Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR Senegal), and two partners: the Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA, Nigeria) and the Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES, Ivory Coast)*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The global food price crisis of 2007/2008 severely affected the developing world. In its aftermath, many West African countries put national programs in place to reduce their vulnerability. In order to facilitate knowledge transfer of policies and strategies of rice self-sufficiency in West Africa, the Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR Senegal) and two partners, the Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA, Nigeria) and the Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES, Ivory Coast) will organize a three-day conference to deepen the understanding of the challenges and the opportunities of such policies.

### **WHAT THEY WILL DO**

A bilingual conference will be organized in Senegal with the participation of many actors involved in the rice sector including producers, policy-makers, and professional associations that operate in the rice sector. The conference will lay the foundations for a collective reflection on ways to better implement rice policies within West Africa. It will also provide an opportunity to identify knowledge gaps for future collaborative research.

### **HOW THEY WILL DO IT**

The conference will consist of presentations by keynote speakers, panel discussions, and session papers. Government representatives from Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal will share their experience with their rice self-sufficiency policies in their respective countries. Think tanks from these countries will provide a critical review of these policies. Representatives from the private sector in these three countries will also share their views, and finally there will be a general and open discussion.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The conference will contribute to strengthening the research capacity and research quality of the participating think tanks especially in the area of agricultural policy. The conference will also allow for peer learning, and develop policy linkages at both the regional and national levels.