

COMMERCIAL RICE GROWERS ALLIANCE GHANA (CRAG)

Position Statement on Strengthening Government Commitment and Public Support for Local Rice Procurement and Consumption

The **Commercial Rice Growers Alliance Ghana (CRAG)**, a national network of commercial rice producers and value chain actors, is calling for a **renewed national commitment to prioritize Made-in-Ghana Rice** in both **public procurement and household consumption**.

Context

Ghana continues to import more than **US\$500 million worth of rice annually**, despite significant improvements in local production capacity and product quality. Imported rice dominates the shelves of markets, hotels, and even public institutions, leaving locally produced rice at a competitive disadvantage.

This trend not only undermines the hard work of Ghanaian farmers and millers but also drains foreign exchange and discourages private investment in the sector. The time has come for **collective action—led by government and supported by citizens—to make Ghana rice the first choice for every Ghanaian table**.

CRAG's Call to Action

The Commercial Rice Growers Alliance Ghana calls on the **Government of Ghana**, corporate Ghana, and all citizens to demonstrate tangible support for the local rice industry by making **"Eat Ghana Rice"** not just a slogan, but a **national movement**.

We urge the Government of Ghana to:

1. **Adopt and enforce a Local Rice Procurement Policy** that mandates all government institutions – including the Ghana School Feeding Programme, the Prisons Service, the Armed Forces, health services, and educational institutions – to source rice from Ghanaian producers and millers.
2. **Champion nationwide consumption of Ghana rice** through public campaigns, product exhibitions, and culinary promotions highlighting its quality, taste, and nutritional value.
3. **Implement gradual import reduction measures** to protect and promote local production competitiveness.
4. **Encourage private institutions, supermarkets, hotels, and restaurants** to partner with local rice producers and feature Made-in-Ghana rice in their operations.

A National Imperative

Buying and consuming Ghana rice is not just an economic act - it is a **patriotic duty**. Every bag of imported rice purchased is a missed opportunity to empower a Ghanaian farmer, support a local miller, or create employment for our youth and women.

By choosing local rice, Ghanaians directly contribute to:

- **Sustaining rural livelihoods and local agribusinesses**
- **Reducing foreign exchange losses** from rice imports
- **Creating thousands of jobs** in production, processing, and distribution
- **Strengthening food security** and national economic independence

CRAG's Commitment

CRAG remains committed to advancing the visibility, quality, and competitiveness of Ghana rice. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, development agencies, and private investors, CRAG is building a vibrant rice sector that reflects the nation's pride and potential.

Under the banner **"Ghana Rice, Ghana Pride – Eat Local, Build National Prosperity,"** CRAG will continue to advocate, mobilize, and empower stakeholders to make Ghana rice the default choice across the nation.

For further information, contact:

Commercial Rice Growers Alliance Ghana (CRAG)

Email: ghanaricegrowersalliance@gmail.com

Contacts: Fred Kukubor (Interim Chair) +233 54 355 0889 | +233 243 409 983 | +233 54 413 3966