

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
6TH DECEMBER 2025

**CRAG COMMENDS GOVERNMENT ON 41st FARMERS' DAY;
CALLS FOR STRONGER ACTION TO BOOST GHANA'S RICE VALUE CHAIN**

The Commercial Rice Growers Alliance Ghana (CRAG) has congratulated all Ghanaian farmers on the celebration of the 41st National Farmers' Day and commended the Government of Ghana for sustaining this important annual national recognition.

In a statement, CRAG lauded government for the renewed directive instructing all public institutions - particularly schools, hospitals, and the security services - to procure Made-in-Ghana rice for internal consumption. The Alliance described this directive as "a positive step toward building stable markets, reducing import dependence, and supporting local producers."

CRAG also acknowledged key interventions outlined in the 2026 Budget, including the expansion of mechanization services, improved access to inputs, increased irrigation development, and support for agro-industrialization. These measures, the Alliance indicated, align strongly with national ambitions to achieve rice self-sufficiency.

Call for Additional Measures

Despite these gains, CRAG emphasized the need for stronger and more coordinated action to address persistent gaps across the rice value chain – particularly high production costs, limited access to machinery, and unfair competition from cheap imports.

The Alliance highlighted **four priority actions** that must be accelerated to transform Ghana's rice sector:

1. Affordable Inputs & Machinery Access

- Prioritize rice-specific machinery such as combine harvesters and land-levelling equipment under the Farmer Service Centers.
- Expand subsidized and/or affordable input packages for commercial and emerging rice farmers to reduce production cost and stabilize output.

2. Establishment of a National Rice Advisory Committee

- Set up a multi-stakeholder National Rice Advisory Committee comprising government agencies, private sector actors, farmer groups, millers, aggregators, research institutions, and development partners.
- The Committee will provide coordinated guidance, ensure timely and transparent resolution of sector challenges, strengthen policy implementation, and align national efforts toward rice self-sufficiency.

3. Stronger Private Sector Engagement

- Incentivize millers, aggregators, processors, and buyers to procure locally grown rice.
- Strengthen long-term public-private partnerships within rice enclaves and industrial parks as mentioned under the 24hrplus Economy plan and agro-processing agenda.

4. Phased Reduction of Rice Imports & Boost in Local Consumption

- Implement a structured, gradual reduction in imports to protect local producers.
- Enforce border controls to prevent flooding of the market with unregulated imports.
- Intensify consumer campaigns such as “Eat Ghana Rice” in partnership with value chain actors.

Commitment to Collaboration

CRAG expressed its readiness to work with government, development partners, and private sector actors to modernize production, improve quality, and expand processing and marketing opportunities for Ghanaian rice.

“Ghana is capable of growing the rice it consumes,” the statement noted. “With targeted investments, stronger market linkages, and decisive policy implementation, the country can achieve full rice self-sufficiency.”

CRAG reaffirmed its commitment to advocate for fair pricing, protect farmer livelihoods, and ensure that rice production becomes a profitable and competitive enterprise across the country.

Signed:

Commercial Rice Growers Alliance Ghana (CRAG)

Accra, Ghana

For correspondence, contact the secretariat:

Commercial Rice Growers Alliance Ghana (CRAG)

Email: ghanaricegrowersalliance@gmail.com

Phone: +233 54 355 0889 | +233 54 413 3966 | +233 243 409 983