

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR DEMSA RICE
MILL & 5,000-HECTARE PADDY CULTIVATION PROJECT, AT
DEMSA L.G.A., ADAMAWA STATE; BY GURIN RICE COMPANY LTD.**

Background Information Document (BID)

This Background Information Document (BID) provides information to assist stakeholders to participate in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and environmental authorization process for the proposed **Integrated Rice Production (Paddy Cultivation and Rice Processing) Project at Demsa Community in Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria.**

What is the EIA About?

Basically, the EIA is the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the bio physical, social and other relevant effects of Gurin Rice Company Ltd proposed project prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.

In compliance with regulatory bodies, like the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv) statutory provisions and in accordance to the EIA Act 86 of 1992, Gurin Rice Company Ltd. (*the project-proponent*) has commissioned Richflood International Limited, being a reputable environmental consultant, to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed **Integrated Rice Production (Paddy Cultivation and Rice Processing) Project at Demsa Community in Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria.**

Background

Gurin Rice Company Ltd. is an indigenous/private company, which has her primary interest in Integrated Rice Production Project; thus the cultivation of a 5,000-hectares Paddy Farm-estate and the complimentary establishment of a Rice-Mill Plant on a 20-hectares. The paddy farm is to service the proposed rice mill, with required raw materials.

To this end (of achieving the specified goal of Integrated Rice Production Project), the Company have mapped out a vast landmass/estate (*5,000Ha*) for the

cultivation of paddy-rice to make available needed raw/paddy material for the (20Ha) rice mill.

Project Location

The proposed Paddy Estate is situated within Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa State, North-Eastern Nigeria. The paddy estate (for rice cultivation/farming) is locally hosted by Demsa Community, with the following (6) host villages within the project catchment area of Demsa as: Kodomum, Kudiri, Sabonlayi, Pude, Gorgbaki and Gawon Villages. The host villages have a spatial boundary of 2km to the project area.



Figure 1: Demsa Irrigated and Mechanized Paddy Cultivation estate location in Nigeria

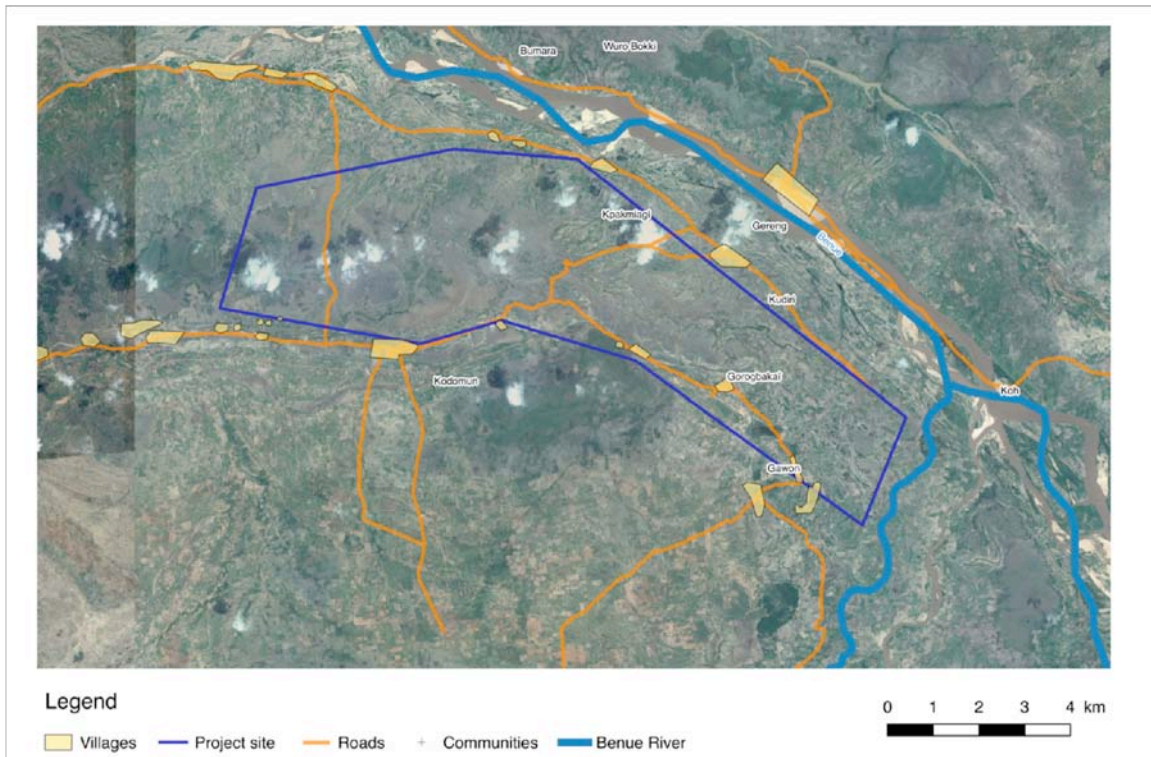


Figure 3: Showing Villages, project location and road networks in the project area

Source: FGM International

Objectives of the EIA

The objectives of the EIA for the project site are to:

- Provide information and evidence required for developing an Environmental Impact Statement for the project site;
- Establish baseline information for the project site.
- Identify associated/potential impacts of the project in the area;
- Recommend preventive, mitigative and control measures for the identified potential/associated adverse impacts of the project; and
- Develop a cost effective Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the lifetime of the project.

Project Overview

Gurin Rice Company Limited, an indigenous company registered in Nigeria, with industrial experience in agro products, having commitment to contribute into the food security of the nation, have proposed to carry out an Integrated Rice Production Project.

The ('Demsu Rice Mill & 5,000-Hectare Paddy Cultivation') Project is basically in two (2) Schemes:

1. Cultivation of Paddy on a 5,000-Hectare Farm-Estate; and
2. Establishment of a 5 Ton Per Hour (TPH) Rice Mill Processing factory on a 20-Hectare

The Paddy Cultivation Project would be developed in Three (3) Phases:

- Phase 1 lot A and lot B involves the development of 1,500 hectares
- Phase II involves the development of 2,000 hectares
- Phase III involves development of 1,500 hectares

The strategy of the project is to provide the Nigerian market with locally produced rice, while developing local capacity in rice production. It consists of 3 key Components including:

- Component 1.** Installation of a 5 Ton per Hour rice mill and 64 Ton per batch parboiling plant,
- Component 2.** Development of a 5,000-hectares irrigated and mechanized paddy cultivation estate,
- Component 3.** Development of an out-grower scheme as an inclusivity initiative for the host community.

The project allocates 28% of the to be developed area to the out-growers (smallholders)

POTENTIAL AND ASSOCIATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environmental Impact Indicators

The environmental impact indicators for the study are easily observable parameters that will indicate change/deviation, which can be used to monitor the various environmental components.

The primary ***Biophysical Indicators*** for the on-going impact assessment are the following:

- Climate and meteorology;
- Air quality;
- Noise levels;

- Groundwater;
- Geology and geomorphology;
- Soils and soil erosion;
- Drainage patterns and flooding;
- Unique physical features; and
- Vegetation including economic trees and crops.

The primary *Socio-Economic Indicators* for the on-going impact assessment are the following:

- Land use;
- Employment and income;
- Community population and ethnicity;
- Community relations; and
- Services (e.g water and electricity supply).

For the proposed rice-milling project, the main environmental issues are as follows:

- Water used for soaking the paddy, especially for parboiled rice production, if not properly treated could result in water pollution and odor nuisance to local community
- Effluent produced during cleaning of equipment may cause water pollution through insufficient treatment of effluent
- Air pollution both on site and in the surrounding locality may result from release of dust to the atmosphere from handling or processing of the paddy or its by-products (in fact, this is a major environmental concern for rice mills)
- High internal and external noise levels that may generate health hazard to employees and nuisance to the local community
- Disposal of solid wastes, particularly unused rice husk and bran, as well as other wastes generated from the cleaning process
- Raw materials and by-products may be subject to pest infestation and contamination (Birds contaminated with avian flu can leave their droppings in the rice mill)
- Pollution risks to water and soil from spillage and leakage of fuels that maybe stored on site

- High risks of fire

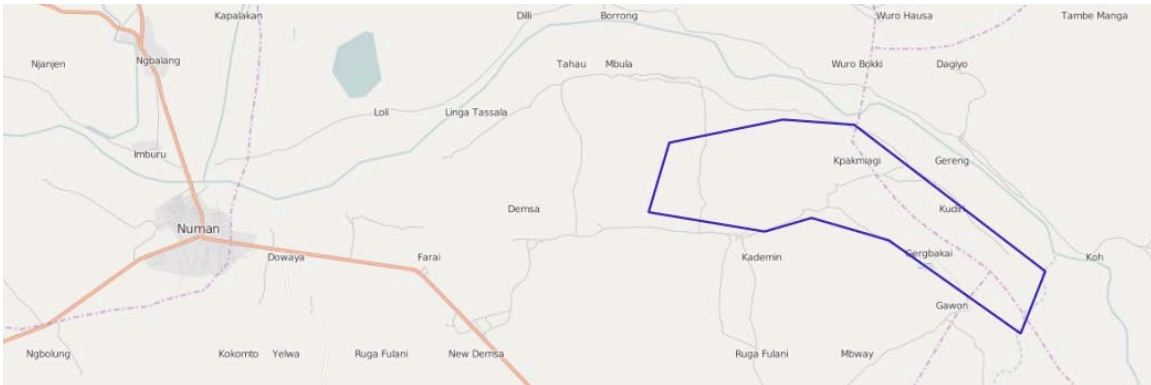


Figure 2: Close-up on the 5000 ha project site

Call for Participation

The stakeholder engagement process is designed to conform to the Nigerian EIA Decree and international standards, including the IFC Performance Standards. Key objectives for stakeholder engagement for this project are:

1. Share information about the Project;
2. Gather local knowledge to improve understanding of the environmental and social context and understand locally-important issues;
3. Enable stakeholders to raise concerns / questions about the Project;
4. Gather responses on the EIA findings and incorporate stakeholder views into the design and management measures;
5. Respond to concerns and questions and report back on the findings of the EIA and proposed management measures;
6. Lay foundation for future stakeholder engagement.

Anyone who is interested or affected by the proposed project has a right to participate in the EIA process, and is invited to further participate in the EIA Process. Please make use of the following opportunities to be involved in the stakeholder engagement process:

- Study the information made available in this Background Information Document;

- Contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team to obtain further project information, and/or raise issues and concerns (contact details provided below);
- Attend the Stakeholder meetings to obtain further project information, interact with the Project Team, and/or raise issues and concerns. More information about the meetings will be circulated through letters, community leaders, radio announcements and through the project website.

Contact Information

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