Agriculture

PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RAIN-FED LOWLAND RICE PRODUCTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Period: July 2009- July 2014

Beneficiaries: 30 RADU and DADU staff and 1,000 rice farmers

Implementing Organization: Directorate of Crops Services (DCS), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)

Overall Goal:

Productivity and profitability of rice farming in rain-fed lowland in Project areas is increased.

Project Purpose: Dissemination of the "model for sustainable development of rain-fed lowland rice production (Model)" is accelerated within the Project areas.



PROJECT AREA PILOT DISTRICT : NORTHERN AND ASHANTI REGION



Activity



As a result of adaptation of technical package, consist of Land Development and Rice Cultivation Technology which are accessible for small holder farmers, the average yield for Trial Plot was 4.1t/ha in Ashanti and 3.3t/ha in Northern in crop season 2010. The average yield for Trial Plot increased to 4.9/ha in Ashanti and 3.6t/ha in Northern in 2011. These results show huge increase in yield compared to the yield before the project started.

The project introduced post-harvest technologies such as threshing, milling and packaging to improve the quality of rice. Also to enhance the value chain network, the Quality Rice Promotion Forums (QRiPF) were established in model sites.

Based on those technologies, the project is currently in the extension phase. Target districts developed their District Rice Extension Plans in 2011. According to the plan, each district takes initiatives for implementation of project activities to transfer its technologies to new priority sites. The project organizes various training to AEAs, group famers, and contact farmers who play a key role of famer to famer technology exchange and value chain actors.

Comment from Counter pert –

Mr. Boakye-Acheampong, an Agricultural Engineer, the Project Manager for JICA's rice project in the Ashanti Region,



We learned about the Japanese rice development and distribution policy and how we could adapt it to suit the Ghanaian rice production terrain. In Ghana, we are conducting research to increase yield and have rice varieties that can withstand drought and establish a complete value-chain for rice cultivation, processing, packaging and marketing. Japan has passed those stages.

Comment from Expert - Mr. Shota Katafuchi

The project is unique in terms that we focus on making maximum use of existing technology and materials farmers are already used to and also collaboration with local counterpart. As one of the activities to strengthen the value-chain network, we are organizing a forum to bring all relevant stakeholders together and forge a way forward.

