



2022 Rainy Season Continued!

Output 1: Cultivation Techniques



< Weeding in Buluto >

1. Progress of Rainy Season Farmer Field School (FFS) Activities

In this February, Workshop 2 on transplanting, Workshop 3 on weeding, and Workshop 4 on pest control have been conducted. In Maliana I site, total 10 workshops were conducted with 157 participating farmers and 15 Extension workers. In Buluto site, total 7 workshops were conducted with 74 participating farmers and 11 Extension workers. Now many Extension workers seem to be more confident about their activities than before and are able to handle FFS workshops without much supports from the Project.

2. Progress of Rainy Season Cultivation

Weeding in early stage with rotary weeder is well adopted by the farmers and growth of rice is constant.

3. Wet Direct Sowing Trial with Tokyo University

The Project started collaboration with Tokyo University to improve direct sowing method in Maliana I.

Output 2: Irrigation Water Management



< Checking site situation for the Manuals >

1. Revising Irrigation Management Manuals for both Buluto and Maliana I

Draft of Irrigation Management Manuals prepared by a short-term expert, Mr. Okuwa was discussed among Task Group (TG) members, and further they considered them by checking site situations and discussing with Gate Keepers. The manuals will be finalized by the end of March after presented at the General Assembly Meeting in Buluto and stakeholders meeting in Maliana I. The highlight of these manuals is to introduce Rotational Irrigation Method.

2. Water Fee Collection in Maliana I

After suspended for several years, water fee collection in Maliana I was started in February. Prior to the collection, Water Users' Association (WUA), 39 Chiefs of Canal, and 5 Suco chiefs had a meeting and confirm the importance of Chiefs of Canal in terms of collecting the water fee. Participating all Chiefs of Canal accepted to carry out the collection activity.

3. Trainings for Gate Keepers, Treasury of WUA, Irrigation Officers in Buluto

Several trainings were conducted in February. 1. a training for operation record keeping was conducted for gate Keepers by TG members using the operation record form. 2. a training for the treasury of WUA on a simple financial record was conducted by TG members. 3. a training for Irrigation officers on leveling was conducted selecting 5-6 points by Japanese Experts. The officers had gotten used to it and measured all points, also they drew a longitudinal profile.

Output 3: Distribution and Sales (Private Sector)



< Reviewing CAAKUB's milling machine >

1. Cooperation for CAAKUB Farmers Association

Each steps of CAAKUB's milling process was reviewed in order to improve the milling rate. This reviewing improved the milling rate to 65.6% from previously on average about 53.0%. We will continue to provide guidance to CAAKUB's workers so improved milling rate is ensured. Currently 5S has not implemented thoroughly at CAAKUB's warehouse, so it took much time for stocktaking. However, CAAKUB and the Project agreed to carry out an inventory checking at the end of each month to confirm the loss of goods, and will continue to conduct the inventory checking.

2. Support Women's Groups for Rice Powder Products

CAAKUB had a meeting with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Agro-Commerce, Bobonaro about activity policies for women's groups in Maliana I for rice powder products. The Project will discuss future activity plans with CAAKUB and Agro-Commerce and support to develop the activity plans.

Output 4: Purchasing and Distribution (Government Sector)



< Interview on the campaign >

1. Planning Socialization Workshop for NLC's Purchase Plan and FFS promotion

National Logistic Center (NLC) has announced that they no longer to purchase paddy but purchase milled rice in 2022. The Project had a meeting with NLC on the schedule of socialization workshop to explain NLC's purchasing system including the purchasing price and FFS activities. The workshops will be conducted from the middle of March to April to the farmers in Maliana I, its surrounding areas, and Buluto.

2. Monitoring of Rice Production Increase Campaign

1 minute CM broadcast ended at the end of January, so we started to monitor the impacts of the campaign on the farmers in Maliana I. We interviewed total 50 farmers and are tabulating. Based on the results of this monitoring, we will make a plan for the next year's campaign program.