

RiceMAPP FLASH

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New Technical Package (WSRC) has begun being disseminated!

At the end of the year 2014, the **Water Saving Rice Culture (WSRC)** was developed in Mwea Irrigation Scheme (MIS) by RiceMAPP. The WSRC is a technical package that aims at yield improvement and water saving. It consists of 5 main technologies namely: **1. Healthy seedling, 2. Hand leveling, 3. Line planting, 4. Improved weeding and 5. Intermittent irrigation.** This is a sister technology to SRI (System of Rice Intensification).

Based on the extension plan to disseminate WSRC to rice farmers through Farmer to Farmer approach, RiceMAPP organized for an **Integrated Training on WSRC**. This was an intense training for the so called “**Core Farmers**”, selected amongst the rice farmers, and the **SCAOs/ WAEOs, drawn from Kirinyaga County, and** who periodically undertake few extension activities within the Scheme (MIS).

The first session of the training was held from 20th May – 22nd May, the second session from 3rd June – 5th June, and a supplemental session on 24th June, for those who were not able to fully attend the first two sessions. Through these successive trainings, 47 core farmers in total were trained, and eventually more than 120 core farmers would be trained by the end of the project. Each farmer will be expected to disseminate WSRC to at least 5 neighboring farmers.



The Participants listened to the lecturers attentively.



Line planting demonstration attracted attention of the participants.

Some Core Farmers expressed their opinions as follows;

- More and more farmers should attend the training;
- They want to eagerly learn about WSRC;
- They want the project to support their practice on their fields.

The Japanese Extension Expert, Mr. Narabu noted that WSRC has been considerably accepted by the experienced rice farmers. Mr. Oyange, who is a counterpart in extension, stressed that WSRC is a package of technologic tested and confirmed an increase rice productivity and production. Implementation and supervision of WSRC extension activities would be carried out by RiceMAPP in collaboration with SCAOs/WAEOs from now on.

RiceMAPP intends to disseminate WSRC not only through Core Farmers, but also in collaboration with **Irrigation Water Users Association (IWUA), through the unit leaders**. These are in charge of management and control of irrigation canals and are more influential than the farmers. Collaborating with them is therefore indispensable for dissemination of WSRC within the Scheme. In regard, the WSRC training for unit leaders was held on 18th June, 2015. IWUA has realized that WSRC has contributed towards water saving in MIS and they have positively embraced it.



The participants were listening carefully about healthy seedlings.



The explanation of Intermittent Irrigation was given by Water Management Experts.



The participants elaborated the action plans at the end of the training.



RiceMAPP attracted farmers' interest at MRGM Open days!



RiceMAPP was invited to MRGM open days which were opened from 20th to 24th July. RiceMAPP participated in three sessions, which were held at Thiba, Mwea and Tebere respectively. Throughout the days, farmers were highly interested in WSRC technologies and the display of the machines such as, Power & Push Weeders, Reapers, Threshers and Levelling boards.

Therefore, massive collaboration between MRGM and RiceMAPP is expected in order to enhance each activity from now onwards.