

RiceMAPP FLASH

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New Core Farmers have begun practicing WSRC in MIS!

Sixty nine (69) **demonstration farms of Water Saving Rice Culture (WSRC)** have been set by the Core Farmers in various parts of Mwea Irrigation Scheme (MIS) . This follows after a two-days training, which was conducted in June and July of 2015. After the training, the extension team made follow up visits that enabled core farmers to make a **cropping calendar**, which they are currently implementing. The Project, in collaboration with the SCAOs/ WAEOs from Kirinyaga County, and the Unit Leaders of the Irrigation Water Users Association (IWU) has continued to support the core farmers to practice WSRC in their paddy fields.



The project's extension officers, with SCAOs/ WAEOs, have visited all the Core Farmers.



A core Farmer practicing hand leveling



A Core farmer using a Push weeder in her line planted field.

To ensure correct implementation and practice of key technologies of WSRC trained (**Hand Leveling, Healthy Seedling and Line Planting**), the extension team visited all the Core Farmers. They were provided with thorough instruction regarding the usage of hand leveler, healthy seedlings, appropriate plant population and Line planting. The project has also stressed on the need to do **Gap filling in order** to maximize yields for both the main crop and the ratoon. Failure to gap fill has been realized to be one of the main causes of lower yields. Each core farmer is expected to recruit at least five follower farmers, who should see, experience and learn the WSRC from the core farmers' field.

Where possible, they should also implement. Both the core and follower Farmers are equally important resource since they play a crucial role in the extension of WSRC in MIS. The Japanese Extension Expert, Mr. Narabu, has appreciated that sixty nine demonstration farms have been successfully set through the effort of the farmers

and the **Unit Leaders' smooth coordination**. He noted that Core Farmers have appreciated that early transplanting leads to better growth, while using **Push Weeder saves on labor** and is applicable in line transplanted crop. WSRC is therefore rapidly being positively embraced in MIS



Technical materials are being disseminated to farmers to help their understanding of WSRC



Signboard have been erected at all the WSRC demonstration farms

The key stakeholders of MIS have been learned PIM developed in JAPAN!

In the month of July, four key stakeholders of MIS namely: National Irrigation Board(NIB), Kirinyaga County, Mwea Irrigation Agriculture Development Centre(MIAD) and IWUA, were dispatched to Japan for a two weeks training on **Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) by RiceMAPP**. During the training, they visited Water Resource Institute, Land Improvement Area, Irrigation Projects and the Ministry of Agriculture amongst others. They realized that Japan's agriculture and usage of water resource is environmentally friendly, with less usage of agricultural chemicals. The stakeholders of irrigation areas were also found to be well organized and collaborate well with one another.



The experiences obtained in Japan are shared with key stakeholders of MIS



Different media have also assisted in dissemination of WSRC.

The experiences and understanding of PIM and mechanisms of Japan's agricultural/rural development is expected to contribute to successful implementation of Rice MAPP activities and Development of Kenya.