

RiceMAPP FLASH

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More than 500 farmers have attended RiceMAPP trainings within 2 weeks!

RiceMAPP is currently implementing upscaled extension plan. According to this, it is expected that more than one thousand four hundred (1,400) farmers will practice WSRC in MIS by the end of the project. This will be equivalent to 20% of the entire farmers in MIS.

During the 3rd and 4th week of November, more than five hundreds (500) farmers attended trainings organized by the project. The beneficiaries were both Core Farmers (CF) and Unit leaders (UL), who have already learned WSRC during past trainings. In addition, there were approximately three hundred and seventy (370) Line Leaders (LL). Line Leaders are farmer representatives within the Irrigation Water Users Association (IWUA) structure, in charge of feeder canals and are responsible for payment of O&M. Collaboration with the line leaders is therefore essential in order to disseminate Water Saving Rice Culture (WSRC) in Mwea Irrigation Scheme (MIS). The CFs and ULs were trained on Improved Ratoon production (IRaP), Gender mainstreaming, Agribusiness and Sequential cropping. LLs were however in addition, introduced to WSRC, which they have never been trained on before. They are hence expected to start practicing WSRC from the next Long Rainy Season.



Enthusiastic Line leaders filled the training room.



Farmers learned the difference among different age of seedlings.

The trainings have not only enhanced the relationships between RiceMAPP and IWUA, but also generated a lot of expectations for IWUA from the project. It is important to note that for the success of RiceMAPP project activities, massive support from IWUA is required. The chairman of IWUA, Mr. Maurice Mwangi, while addressing the training session, appreciated that to date, all IWUA leaders have been able to get an opportunity to participate in the practical trainings which is related to the farmer's profit. An expert of Water Management, Mr Mitamura, also noted that water saving awareness amongst the farmers will be enhanced through the IWUA leaders who have received this training.



Stakeholders from Western schemes exchanged with Core farmers.



Stakeholders from Western schemes visited Nice Rice Miller.

As part of the deliberate attempts to disseminate WSRC to other schemes, RiceMAPP invited an extension staff and a farmer each, from two Western Irrigation Schemes (Ahero and West Kano) to participate. This emanated from the interest Ahero and West Kano showed when RiceMAPP made previous visit on technology sharing. The farmers had an opportunity to be trained on WSRC, visited CF's demo farms and Nice Rice Miller to learn practically on the marketing models in MIS. These farmers will set WSRC demo farms in their schemes under interventions of RiceMAPP. The project hopes that this might be an important step towards an increase in rice productivity and production in Western schemes.

Project Coordinating Committee meeting held in Mwea

The second session of the Project Coordination Committee (PTC) of 2015 was held in Mwea. Members had agreed that this be held at the project site, to enable them acquaint themselves with the actual on-going project activities. The contributions of those present: Ms. Phelomena Chege (Chairman of PTC, Unit Leader of Project Coordination Unit, MoALF) on top of the list, representatives of Ministry of Water and Irrigation, National Irrigation Board (NIB), Rice Promotion Unit (RIPU) and JICA, were very fruitful. It was noted that for effectiveness of WSRC, it should be disseminated to farmers not only in MIS, but also in other irrigation schemes in Kenya. For RiceMAPP, PTC members' feedback comes from their wide range of knowledge and experience. Results of the short rains activities will be reported during the next session.



Progress report were given by each sections during the Project Technical Committee



PTC members have appreciated the progress and the outcome of the project.