

RiceMAPP FLASH

February, 2016 Vol.4-4



Harvest and yield sampling was successfully done in all the WSRC demo farms

In order to achieve the upscaled WSRC extension plan¹, RiceMAPP recruited and trained 68 Core farmers in 2014 and 2015, and has been following up their practice on the ground. By the end of December 2015, all the WSRC demo farms reached their harvest time. The Project extension team visited all the WSRC demo farms and took samples for yield survey. These samples are being analyzed by Rice Cultivation Section and the result will be evaluated by comparing with that of conventional practice.



Harvesting and sampling in WSRC demo farm

Improved Ratoon Production (IRaP) has been developed

Ratoon cropping has been practiced by 98% of rice farmers in MIS. However, Technologies on its management has not been developed and disseminated although the demand on the topic is high. To tackle the issue, RiceMAPP did field experiments and developed a technology package called “Improved Ratoon Production (IRaP)”. The major components of this package are “Cutting height”, “Potassium Application” and “Appropriate timing of topdressing”. In total, 66 core farmers have already been trained on the IRaP by the project, and are practicing it. The voice of farmers will be delivered after this cropping season.



IRap (Left) and Convetional (Right)

Double Cropping Trial was launched in collaboration with MIS & IWUA

The WSRC, which is being disseminated by the project is able to save water not only in individual farm, but also in a wide area. In addition, it is important that the project shows how double cropping works in MIS when Thiba dam is constructed. For these reasons, RiceMAPP has been crafted a plan for Double Cropping Trial and it was approved by MIS and IWUA on 1st December 2015. In the plan three units of M5, M6 and M9 were identified as a result of discussion among MIS, IWUA and RiceMAPP, taking into consideration of various aspects. Subsequently, Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) was also held on 16th, followed by preparatory training on Double Cropping. During the PCC, the outline and the concept of the trail were explained and

¹ The plan expects 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.

approved by the project's stakeholders. Both Water Management Section and Extension Section are going to implement on farm demo in the targeted units.



Outline & Concept of Double Cropping Trial was explained to the farmers in targeted units and PCC members

Concept of Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) has been organized

A concept of Warehouse receipt System (WRS) for MIS has been organized by Agribusiness Section of the project. The system aims to increase farmers' profit by making use of one function of Mwea Rice Mills (MRM) to provide a marketing option to farmers. The project explained the concept and its importance to the General Manager of NIB and it was received favorably. It was agreed as a way forward that a detailed action plan for implementation, be made by the Agribusiness section.



Available Store at MRM for WRS

Collaboration with another JICA project-“PEGRES”

Mwea is also one of the targeted areas by another JICA project so called “Project on Enhancing Gender Responsive Extension Services (PEGRES)”. PEGRES, in collaboration with RiceMAPP and the County extension office, undertook a “Gender Study” from 30th Nov. to 2nd Dec. 2015, followed by a Supplementary Gender Baseline Survey” on 7th Dec. 2015. Since Gender Mainstreaming is one of the important components of RiceMAPP, the project has been supporting PEGRES by mobilizing targeted stakeholders during the activities. The two JICA projects of PEGRES and Rice MAPP are in collaboration and have been sharing their experiences.



RiceMAPP participated in Kenya rice researchers' forum

During the PTC held on Nov. 2015, RiceMAPP was requested to make a presentation at Kenya rice researchers' forum scheduled for 8th Dec, 2015. In this regard, Rice Cultivation Section and Agribusiness Sections presented their findings on the field experimentation and market-oriented marketing. It was a good opportunity to show the outputs of RiceMAPP. After the presentation, the project obtained fruitful feedbacks including request on joint research.

