

# RiceMAPP FLASH

March, 2016 Vol.4-5



## Core farmers' yield increased by 13% through practicing WSRC!

In order to achieve the upscaled WSRC extension plan, RiceMAPP recruited and trained 68 Core farmers in 2014 and 2015, and has been following up their practice in the field. By the end of February 2016, the Project's extension team had visited all the WSRC demo farms and took samples for yield survey. These samples were analyzed by Rice Cultivation Section. The results shows that the yield in Core Farmers' WSRC Fields increased by an average of 13%, compared with that of conventional practice. The extension team has also embarked on supporting core farmers practicing "Improved Ratoon Production (IRaP)". This aims to increase farmers profit by a combination of WSRC practice in short rain season and IRaP practice soon after the main cropping. The project appreciates the result and the Core farmers' effort.

## Double Cropping Trial is on-going in collaboration with MIS & IWUA

Double Cropping requires effective irrigation especially during dry season. The system enables farmers to increase their yields and profits drastically when done successfully. WSRC, which is being disseminated by the project, is able to save water not only in individual farms, but also in a wide area. It is important that the project demonstrates that double cropping can work in MIS when Thiba dam is completed. For this reason, RiceMAPP crafted a Double Cropping Trial plan, which was approved by the stakeholders namely Kirinyaga County, MIS, MIAD and IWUA during the last PCC held on December 2015. In the plan, the three units of M5, M6 and M9 were identified and agreed upon by MIS, IWUA and RiceMAPP. The Project's water management and Extension sections, which coordinate this trial, made a cropping calendar for the three units. All the Farmers in the units are therefore expected to practice intermittent irrigation based on the calendar so that irrigation water saving can be done both in individual farms and also in the entire respective units. The two sections of the Project have continued to support farmers through on-farm demos. Simultaneously, data on the amount of irrigation water used will be continuously taken in order to confirm the amount of water saved by practicing WSRC in the whole unit.



## Non tillage yields 7.4 t/ha, with 20% cost reduction!

Rice Cultivation Section has been conducting non tillage trial in MIAD fields. Yields of 7.4t/ha have been realized with a 20% cost reduction. The technology does not require neither plowing nor rotavation for land preparation. The technology is therefore applicable in parts of Ndekia, Mwea and Tebere sections, with poor drainage and not suitable for use of tractor for land preparation. The project have a plan to carry out a demonstration in MIS coming short rain season to see how it works on the ground.



## RiceMAPP organized Technology Exchange with other JICA's project in Tanzania.

During the period of 1st to 5th February, three (3) WAEOs, one Water guard of MIS, four (4) Unit Leaders of IWUA, three (3) Core farmers and three (3) RiceMAPP staff including a Japanese Expert Mr Narabu, visited "Tanrice 2" project in Tanzania. The main objectives of the trip were to learn about their extension technology, Irrigated Rice Production and Water Management. The Participants visited Lower Moshi Irrigation scheme, Kilimanjaro Agriculture Center, Lemitatu irrigation scheme, Water Resource Points and Head works, to learn about their project and activities. The core farmers and the extension officers had the opportunity to share and discuss with the Tanzanian farmers on WSRC technology in MIS. At the end of the trip, participants came up with action plans for Water Resource Conservation, water Saving Rice Culture and technology extension among farm.



## Deputy Director of MAFF, Mr Tanoi, visited MIS

On 31st January 2016, at the General Assembly of African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, It was officially announced that the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) VI will be held in Nairobi on 27th and 28th August, 2016. Among those present were His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta (Kenya's President) and Mr. Kawai (Deputy Prime Minister of Japan).



This will be the first time for TICAD to be held outside Japan and in Africa. President Uhuru Kenyatta requested Japanese Prime Minister to visit Mwea. In that context, Mr Tanoi, Deputy Director of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF), was assigned by Mr. Kawai to visit Mwea in advance. Subsequently, Mr Tanoi visited RiceMAPP Office, MIAD experimentation field, Small Hydraulic Power Plant (co-funded by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), passing by 7,800ha of Mwea Irrigation Scheme and Nice Rice Millers Ltd among others.

## MAFF and Several Japanese Leading Companies visited Mwea to see agricultural potential for future investment

On 12th February 2016, MAFF, Several Japanese Leading Companies, Embassy of Japan and JICA Kenya visited Mwea to explore the agricultural potential for possible future investment. The excursion was undertaken as part of Global Food Value Chain Strategy developed by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan



(MAFF) in 2014. The strategy is aimed at supporting economic growth of developing countries and enhancing rural income through partnership among the private sector and governments of Japan and developing countries. Given that the next summit of the TICAD VI is going to be held in Nairobi this year, MAFF is keen on development of food value chains in Africa including Kenya. Kirinyaga County Government received the visitors at MIAD where the Executive for Agriculture made a presentation on the agricultural potential of the county. Secondly, they visited RiceMAPP office, MIAD Experimentation field, Kenya Horticulture Exporters Ltd, Nice Rice Miller Ltd. They saw the dynamism on agriculture sector of the county. Finally, they had a discussion session at Nice Digital City with several stakeholders including Minister and chief officer for Agriculture ( Kirinyaga), Equity bank branch Manager( Mwea branch), Chairman IWUA, General manager of MRGM and Director of Nice Rice Miller Ltd. Mr. Masakazu Ikefuchi, the Deputy Director of MAFF appreciated this opportunity and was positive about future and further technical and institutional support. Before the excursion, MAFF had launched a dialogue with MOALF (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya). In this, a discussion on FVC for small scale farmers was on how to move farmers from subsistence to commercial agriculture in collaboration with the private sector. This was because the private sector has a crucial role in developing FVC through knowhow, experience and advanced technology.