

# RiceMAPP FLASH

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

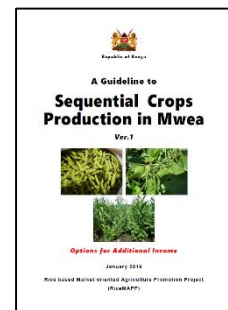
From the three Units, 28 farmers were selected, trained and are now referred to as 'Core Farmers'. As RiceMAPP ground ambassadors, their rice fields have been erected with project signboards, an indication that they are being used as Demonstration plots where other farmers in their neighborhood gather to learn about the improved WSRC technology. The crop in the field is in its final developmental phase (heading/ grain expansion). Farmers are currently involved in bird scaring waiting the harvesting season which commences from early June 2016. Water management and Extension team of RiceMAPP have started yield survey by undertaking Sample cuts from Core farmers' fields. During the season rice blast disease, was of major economic importance. The disease incidence was accelerated by the prevailing wet and humid climatic condition.

## Core farmers' yield increased by 17% through practicing IRaP!

The project's extension team has been supporting core farmers practicing "Improved Ratoon Production (IRaP)". This aims to increase farmers profit by a combination of WSRC practice during short rainy season and IRaP practice soon after. By the end of March 2016, the demo farms had reached harvesting stage. The Project extension team visited and took samples from 40 demo farms and 20 conventional practice for yield survey. The samples were analyzed by Rice Cultivation Section and the results showed a 17% average yield increase with IRaP practice compared to the conventional method. The project appreciates the positive results and the Core farmers' effort.

## Sequential crop guideline has been compiled for local farmers.

The major farming systems in Mwea scheme are: 1) rice + ratoon 2) rice. Alternative horticultural or field crops in areas with inadequate water for ratoon/double cropping has been noted to increase farmers' profits. For this reason, the project carried out field trials and demonstration on several alternative crops last year. Based on the results, a Sequential crops guideline has been compiled for local farmers. It aims to provide technical tips on drainage measure, manure application and rice straw mulch to farmers.



## Several research activities (on-going) in MIAD, to positively improve farmers' practice

The Water Management and Sequential Crop team are currently conducting research activities in MIAD fields as follows;

### 1. Study on Intermittent Irrigation

The main purpose of the trial is to analyze the effects of WSRC water management practice on rice growth and yield as compared with the traditional method of flooding. The research area covers approximately 13M X 13M, consisting of nine equal plots of 4M X 4M in area. The research data collected includes water levels and crop water stress (on a daily basis), plant height and tillers (at 30, 60 and



90 DATs). Yield analysis will be done after harvesting. The crop is currently at 60DAT and data from the trial will be analyzed and shared with all the stake holders in the scheme.

## 2. Study on appropriate drainage method in MIS

One of the major issues with Sequential crops in MIS is water logging due to heavy rains from April and May. It is therefore important for the targeted farmers to know how to make appropriate drainage ditches. For that reason, the project has been conducting a trial on drainage measures. Basmati 370 is grown in paddy fields divided into two parts; the “conventional drainage area” with surrounding drainage ditches, and the “improved drainage area” which has surrounding drainage ditches with vertical and cross supplemental ditches inside. The crop performance will be evaluated in order to identify appropriate drainage measure.

## 3. Efficiency of manure application on tomato, soybean and green grams

Farmers are always expecting maximization of yields with low inputs. According to field demonstration conducted during the previous season, it was suggested that animal manure is efficient to increase yield of tomato, soybean and green gram. In this context, the project is conducting a trial to evaluate the efficiency of manure application on tomato, soybean and green grams.

## 4. Comparison of different varieties of tomato

Preliminary Sequential crop farmers’ survey showed that several varieties of tomato have been cultivated by the farmers. Therefore, identification of appropriate variety is important to maximize farmers’ yield. For that reason, the Sequential crop team has been cultivating different varieties of tomatoes to evaluate their growth and yield so as to identify a suitable cultivar for MIS.



Main & cross ditches



Yield survey of tomato



Soybeans & Green Grams

## Project’s market-oriented approach is being formed by the agribusiness team.

RiceMAPP is also focusing on aspects of agribusiness in order to increase farmers’ income not only through technology transfer but also market-oriented approach. The Project’s Agribusiness team has therefore been carrying out surveys and sharing information on the following; 1) Marketing strategy, 2) Market price fluctuation of paddy and milled rice and 3) Profitability of cropping models. Preliminary results of the surveys obtained indicate that it is possible for the farmers to increase their income more by learning marketing knowhow. After completion of the surveys, the Agribusiness team will compile a guideline to share with targeted farmers. The team, in collaboration with private banks, has also been training farmers on Agricultural credit facilities.



A means of transportation for paddy



Market survey