RiceMAPP FLASH

August, 2016 Vol.5-4

Dissemination of WSRC, a key technology of RiceMAPP, has been vigorously carried out in MIS during 2016 SR season!

RiceMAPP has started On-Farm Demonstrations (OFD) on WSRC at core farmers' fields, during the 2016 short rain season. The activity is being coordinated by the Unit Leaders, facilitated by field Extension Officers and use is made of part of the core farmers' field, which is set aside for WSRC demonstration. The core farmers mobilize Follower farmers they have recruited to attend the OFD for them to see, hear and experience WSRC. During the demonstration, the use of implements used for WSRC such as guide rope for line planting, leveler for manual leveling, push weeder and pipe gauge for Intermittent Irrigation are shown for farmers to practically understand and experience the 5 components of WSRC. Neighboring farmers recruited as follower farmers attending the OFDs have been very positive on WSRC, and are much willing to practice it.

Approximately 350 IWUA leaders have attended Rice MAPP trainings within 2 weeks!

During the election of Irrigation Water Users Association (IWUA) which was conducted in may 2016, respective Unit leaders (UL) and line leaders (LL) were elected. Rice MAPP subsequently conducted a comprehensive WSRC training from 27th June to 4th July 2016 for those elected. Approximately three hundred and fifty (350) IWUA leaders attended this training and were isssued with 4 guidelines on Water management, WSRC, Improved Ratoon Production (IRaP) and Sequential Crop Production. These are expected to further improve their approapriate practices and increase profitability. Rice MAPP expects UL and LL to show their leadership and share the lessons learnt from trainings with the related farmers. The project aims to disseminate WSRC to more than one thousand four hundred (1,400) farmers and and expects that more than 80% of IWUA leaders utilize the Water management guideline before the end of its term. Monitoring of the practice of WSRC and utilization of Water management guideline will start from August this year.

IWUA leaders learned Tip of water management by guidelines.

IWUA leaders learned how to use Pipe-Gauge in field.

P.O.Box 477, Wang'uru, Kirinyaga, Kenya
Mobile; 0771-732 685, E-mail; ricemapp@gmail.com

New development on fertilization

RiceMAPP has been conducting various rice related research trials through field experiments so as to develop improved technologies for farmers. This followed an interraction with the farmers during trainings, where a strong recognition of the demand for the approapriate timing, amount and the right fertilizer was realized. WSRC and IRaP are the outcomes of the said research works. In 2015 and 2016, RiceMAPP developed new fertilization regimes after conducting 8 different experiments on fertilization for Basmati370 (Pishori), the most common variety in MIS. The results showed that the new regime increases grain yield by between 11 to 15% compared with the conventional one. It might be the sixth components of the WSRC.

Alternative land preparation method tried and unveiled!

Chisel plough on dry paddy field

The mechanization section has unveiled a new method aimed at mitigating problems of land preparation in boggy paddy fields in Mwea. Current challenges include high cost for manual land preparation (up to K.sh. 5,500/= excluding ox-levelling and hand puddling 2~3 times each), use of too much water to soften the black cotton soils and too long time taken from flooding to rotavation (7 days). The conventional method costs up to K.sh. 11,000/= compared with Kshs 9,700/= in the new method(prior to transpalnting). In the proposed method, a Chisel Plough and a Drive(rotary) harrow are used instead of a rotavator. One of the most important advantages of the proposed method is that it is possible to flash flood and drive harrow on the same day with enough water flows. In this way, approximately 40% of water is saved and drained to the adjacent field. During the demonstrations held in various MIS sections, farmers appreciated the new method. It will be demonstrated to other paddy growing areas of Kenya experiencing similar problems. RiceMAPP has committed to continue encouraging and providing any technical information regarding the method to rice farmers, tractor owners, machine operators and other stake holders.

Demonstrating Drive Harrowing operation