

RiceMAPP FLASH

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Dissemination of WSRC, a key technology of RiceMAPP, has been adopted by more than 20% of MIS farmers!

RiceMAPP Extension section, together with SCAO Extension Officers, have finished the 4th On-Farm Demonstration (OFD) on 2nd top dressing at panicle initiation stage of rice. The purpose of the OFD was to enlighten on the basic 5 WSRC components and to provide timely and on-site technical advice depending on farmers demand. Basmati rice plants reach panicle initiation at 45 days after transplanting and farmers are encouraged to apply 2nd top-dressing at 53 days after transplanting for better yield. One of the methods introduced during the 4th OFD was to physically identify emerging panicles in the plant. The response from farmers was that this is a new technique they have learnt. During the period of July to October 2016, RiceMAPP Extension team together with Extension Officers, has conducted 114 OFDs in 8 MIS Units and these were attended by 1945 farmers, 1384 male and 561 female.



Farmers tried to identify panicle in the plant physically.

Japanese Ambassador visited RiceMAPP to encourage project activities!

On 12th October 2016, Mr. Toshitsugu Uesawa, the Japanese Ambassador, visited RiceMAPP office as a part of Mwea excursion program. After a brief presentation, he toured RiceMAPP research fields. He was particularly attracted by Basmati 370, Mwea-koshi (Japonica rice) and horticultural crops which are grown in the field. The ambassador noted that a technical cooperation on rice production is Japan's speciality and this should always be successfully done. He further informed the team that the second phase of RiceMAPP is expected to be launched soon. This was a strong encouragement to the project members.



Ambassador visited RiceMAPP experiment field.

7 motor bikes provided by JICA Kenya Office were officially handed over to the Kirinyaga County!

On 27th September 2017, seven(7) motor bikes provided by JICA Kenya Office, were officially handed over to Kirinyaga County. The motor bikes are meant to facilitate dissemination of WSRC/IRaP activities to Core/follower farmers by the SCAO (West/ East) Extension Officers. The Chief Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Gachingiri, officially received the motor bikes from RiceMAPP. He deeply thanked JICA Office for the support which will greatly facilitate the officers movement. He gave an assurance that the bikes will be prudently used in line with the Government regulations and for the intended purpose.

The Officers were also encourage to take initiative with strong ownership on the core farmer activities upon exit of RiceMAPP at the beginning of 2017. RiceMAPP Project Manager appreciated the County Office and the SCAO Offices for their effort that enabled the project to achieve her target output of “more than 20% of farmers practicing WSRC”.



Handover ceremony taking place.



Meeting on rational motorcycle use was held with extension officers.

Water Management Guideline is currently being utilized by 83.3% of IWUA leaders in MIS!

RiceMAPP introduced a ‘Water management Guidelines’ for IWUA leaders during the training held from 27th June–4th July 2016. Utilization of this guideline was meant to enhance the capacity of irrigation water management in MIS by the leaders. During the period of 26th – 31st August, Rice MAPP consequently conducted a survey to confirm its use. Results indicated that 83.3% of IWUA leaders (344 persons) were using the guidelines against the target of 80%. These findings will be shared amongst IWUA during the scheduled training of 26th Oct – 3rd Nov 2016. The Kiswahili version of the pamphlets will also be distributed to the whole MIS through the IWUA at this time. RiceMAPP expresses its appreciation to IWUA for the cooperation and expects an enhanced capacity of the irrigation water management in MIS



Enumerators engaged on the survey on utilization of water management guidelines



Work Shop on Mechanical Paddy Harvesting takes place

Rice-MAPP has been conducting trainings and demonstrations for rice production machinery to farmers, stakeholders, machinery owners and operators since 2012. On 19th October, 2016 at MIAD, A work shop to launch mechanized paddy harvesting was held. This was necessitated by the existence of more than 100 combine harvesters in MIS. A total of 51 participants including owners and operators of combine harvester, SCAO officer, MRGM and farmer groups attended. During the session mechanization guidelines, were issued to the stakeholders. The workshop was addressed by among others, the Project Manger and the Chief Advisor. Mr. Kinuthia, who is in-charge of mechanization, enlightened the attendans on the newly issued guideline of machine harvesting of paddy rice. He then demonstrated on the unique Kubota combine harvester’s advanced technology of Japan. The guideline and demonstration was of interest to participants in line with their experience on the machines.



Demonstration of Kubota combine harvester