



ENHANCING RICE PRODUCTION IN ZAMBIA

The recognition of rice as a profitable smallholder cash crop and a major contributor to food security compelled the Government of Zambia to develop the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS; 2011-2015). The NRDS identified inadequate availability of quality seed, outdated production technologies, poor agronomic practices and uncoordinated markets at farmers' level as the main constraints to rice production in the country. The project aimed to address these constraints through interventions such as the purification of existing rice varieties and the development of improved ones, and the provision of capacity building in rice production for farmers in three target districts, namely Kasama and Mungwi districts in Northern Province and Chinsali district in Muchinga Province.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Four rice variety technologies of improved seed variety were identified and implemented, and 310 farmers had access to these improved seed varieties. A number of training activities were carried out for these farmers, considerably enhancing their skills in rice seed production, seed growing and rice production technologies. Field days were organized, offering the farmers a unique opportunity to encounter the new technologies and techniques, and to learn how they could be practically used and applied. In addition, field day demonstration plots illustrated good crop management practices, including land preparation, planting, spacing, fertilizer application and weeding for various rice varieties. The project linked private seed companies and rice millers to Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) and the project beneficiaries. Efforts were made to engage the private companies in the demonstration plots to pass on technical knowledge; and a transfer licensing scheme was designed by ZARI to offer the private sector an opportunity to access improved technologies.

IMPACT

As a result of improved access to high quality seed, and the knowledge and skills acquired during the project, beneficiary farmers were able to increase their yield, facilitating enhanced household food security and incomes.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 484 000

Duration

April 2015 – August 2017

Resource Partners

FAO

Partners

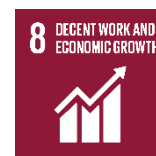
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

Beneficiaries

Small and medium-scale farmers in Kasama and Mungwi districts in Northern Province, and Chinsali district in Muchinga Province, rice processors and rice farmers, staff of MOA

RESULTS

- Four rice variety technologies of improved seed variety (planted alongside recycled seed farmers' variety [Kilombero, Supa-MG, Nerica 4 and ITA 230]) identified and implemented.
- Technologies demonstrated to farmers comprising agronomic practices, including land preparation, planting methods, weeding, fertilizer application, labour-saving technologies, and improved seed variety.
- Four training activities organized to enhance farmers' skills and knowledge on: i) Training of Trainers (ToT) in rice seed production; ii) ToT for seed growers; iii) training of farmers in rice production technologies; and iv) training of farmers in rice seed production.
- Two field days held on the following themes: i) Improved technologies, key to income generation and food security at household level (attended by 884 farmers [403 women and 481 men]); and ii) The promotion of improved rice technologies and value chain in order to increase production and productivity (attended by 1 016 farmers [438 women and 578 men]).
- Exposure visit to Tanzania on improved technologies in rice production organized for 28 stakeholders, comprising government representatives from research and extension, rice processors and rice farmers.
- Practical Training in Songhai (Benin) organized for two youth farmers (one male and one female) in sustainable fish farming and crop production of rice, soybeans and maize.
- Rice breeder unit for the purification and breeding of rice seed procured and installed at Regional Research Station of ZARI.
- Handbook for Rice Production and Manual for Certified Rice Seed Production in Zambia produced.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/ZAM/3501

Project Title

Strengthening Rice Seed Production and Enhancing Extension Services to Increase Rice Production

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