



RICE SECTOR

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SUB SECTOR BRIEF

Tapping the potential of central corridor's rice competitiveness

1. Introduction

Rice is among the most important crops in the country for its contribution to household income and as the second most important staple food in the country after maize. The sub-sector has 250,000 household who are actively cultivating rice in the Central Corridor. The Central Corridor has 48% of total rice cultivated land. The central corridor rice productivity and quality varies from one area to another due to differences in skills, practice, and infrastructure development, hence the total average productivity is rated between 1.5 to 1.8 tons per hectare and of low quality in terms of percentage of rice breakage and clearliness. The average income is TZS 500,000 yearly per household with the potentiality of reaching TZS 1,250,000. Though rice contributes to the income growth of the country still the rice from CC is less attractive to consumers because of low quality compared to Southern highlands. The country rice is mostly supplied to East African countries, although rice export is regarded as informal business due to regular national export bans for domestic food security purposes.



Since the introduction of RLDC interventions to the subsector during the 2010/11 crop season the growth of rice has profited various stake holders through increased productivity and market systems of rice. The specific interventions are focusing on improving agronomic practices of rice producers, raising awareness and access to better-quality rice seeds support of farmers' groups and market linkages between producers and buyers/processors. The progress has been realized on improvement of agronomic practices whereby most of reached rice farmers have adopted and learned proper preparation and use of nurseries for seedlings, row transplanting for increased productivity, proper application of fertilizers and pesticides. Moreover rice farmers have learned on

the practice of routine plant and field investigation for identifying possible threats before they affect the growth of the plants. Also awareness on use of improved seeds in rice have been raised all times of intervention areas on proven increase in production on the demonstration plots and on the rice farmer's fields.

2. Sector vision

For the period of 2012- 2016, RLDC envisions a much more competitive rice sub-sector, domestic self-sufficiency (domestic supply of more than 90% of rice needs) and a formal export business taking advantage of the East African Common market. The sector growth will be driven by private sector investments in processing/ milling that ensure quality rice supply to the market and the demand pull that will stimulate production at farmers' level. To be able to achieve domestic self-sufficiency while at the same time exporting rice the country will need to increase its productivity by more than 50%. This is possible and will only be achieved with improved rice agronomic practices, adoption of improved rice seeds with more productivity potential, tolerance to diseases and drought

3. Sector Interventions

There 4 ongoing interventions in year 2013 emphasizing on scaling up previous interventions including contract farming, Improved Quality seeds, Training on Agronomic practices and farmers having access to micro finances, expand millers association along with the introduction of new innovations of introducing NERICA seeds from ASA which is another new variety proved to resist drought in non-water fed rain water, significantly proven to grow well in mid and upland areas. In the 4 regions of interventions including Singida, Tabora, Manyara and Shinyanga the sector team in collaboration with ASA is testing the NERICA seeds in connection on what has been done previously in order to bring efficiency and effectiveness for long term sustainability.

4.1 Up scaling contract farming in the central corridor

GAKI & DBB are RLDP partners based in Shinyanga and Tabora on the up scaling of CF. GAKI & DBB cover 16 vilagaa with 5316 registered farmers whereby 1625 includes females on contract farming. So far these partners have managed to train 7 private extension officers and provided training through field school. Also 18 tons of improved quality seeds have been provided to their farmers.

4.2 Establishment and sustaining of Village Saving and Lending (VSL) funds

CEDESOTA provides training knowledge on saving and lending groups to farmers that RLDP engages through its partners. So far CEDESOTA has trained 72 group leaders out of which 40 are women. Have managed to





make these saving and lending groups to have the value shares of TZS 30.4m and the loans disbursed to groups is amounted to TZS 22.9m. The total farmers trained on this knowledge include 2048 and 1132 are women.

4.3 Promoting adaptation of simple farming tools to enhance improved rice agronomic practices to higher productivity

Mkindo Farmers training Centre is intended to provide agronomic knowledge practices to farmers, as on this phase MFT have trained 75 promoters along with 10 agro dealers. And farmers have bought 205 simple farm tools.

4.4 Increasing awareness and access to improved seeds

On accessing improved seeds the Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) need to conduct 30 demonstrations of improved seeds in collaboration of rice millers and 10 agro-dealers to reach 3000 farmers to support community based production in the remote areas in collaboration with local government authorities (LGAs). ASA through this intervention has already demonstrated 16 plots of new improved seeds known as NERICA seeds, farmers have responded well on this intervention.



4.5 Formation and strengthening of Millers Association

RLDP in collaboration with millers is going to capacitate the millers so that they can be able to have strong association in order to compete domestically and export quality rice. Have access to financial institution so as to expand their trade.



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