

# PRiDe II NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2022

# OUR RICE OUR PRIDE



### CARD Regional Training in Uganda 2022

During the period from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022, PRiDe II and NaCRRRI successfully conducted Regional Training Course “Rice cultivation in Sub-Saharan Africa” under the initiative of Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).

20 participants, mainly rice extension officers, from 9 CARD member countries, namely Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Zambia, Sudan and Mozambique actively attended the training course.



*The participants from 9 CARD member countries*

In the light of the achievements of double rice production; 14M tonnes to 28M tonnes, between 2008 and 2018 (CARD Phase 1), CARD Phase 2 started to aim for further double rice production; 28M tonnes to 56M tonnes for the next 12 years (2019-2030).

CARD supports the member countries for preparing their National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS). In 2019, many member countries have worked on the revision process of their NRDS including Uganda, as the second phase started.

As a part of those efforts, PRiDe II and NaCRRRI implemented the regional training course on rice production technology inviting 9 CARD member countries under the cooperation with MAAIF, NARO and JICA.

The training course objectives were that the participants are able to (1) Understand and acquire basic knowledge and skills on rice cultivation, (2) Participate in practical sessions of rice cultivation in the field and experience actual exercise, (3) Obtain necessary knowledge and skills for conducting training of farmers and simple experiments at demonstration sites, through lectures, hands-on practical sessions, discussion in a workshop and field visits.



*Mr. Emmanuel Bayega, NaCRRRI training unit staff giving a lecture of lowland rice cultivation*

The participants were eager to learn practical techniques such as variety selection, appropriate planting methods, diagnosis and treatments of diseases and post-harvest handling and so on. They also got ideas of extension approaches through visiting Musomesa Field School (MFS) in districts, and interacting with Ugandan extension officers and farmers there.



*A farmer (2<sup>nd</sup> from the right) who attended MFS introducing how rice productivity was improved through MFS (Bugiri District)*



*Ms. Annet Nakayima (far right), NaCRRRI training unit staff explaining about post-harvest handling (NaCRRRI)*



*Mr. Anguzu Naphtal, NaCRRRI training unit staff teaching how to transplant in appropriate spacing using a guiding rope (NaCRRRI)*

The participants not only obtained the knowledge and skills on improved rice cultivation techniques but also had a great opportunity to share the challenges in each country and discussed the solutions each other. Through gathering of this training course, the participants built a significant relationship beyond countries. It is expected that it encourages them to accelerate rice production activities.

## Ugandan Extension Officers participate in CARD Training in Tanzania

Rice demand is increasing dramatically in Africa due to high population growth rate, easy cooking, good keeping quality, high potential as a cash crop and so forth. Based on this circumstance, there is strong need to strengthen abilities of extension officers with improved rice cultivation techniques towards increase of rice production and productivity in Africa.

Under the initiative of CARD, a regional training was conducted from 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Kilimanjaro Agriculture Training Centre (KATC) in Tanzania.

The training targeted 18 participants from Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. From Uganda 3 participants attended the training namely; Mr. Omalla Zebon – Agricultural Officer (AO) in Bugiri District, Mr. Patrick Cherotin & Mr. Samuel Mulongo – AOs from Bulambuli District. Mr. Paul Lubega - Program Officer, JICA Uganda Office also joined the training as an observer to see quality of the training and advise for better management of the training.

The objective of the training was to widen the knowledge especially on irrigated rice cultivation, share different rice growing practices in different countries.

Mr. Omalla promised to disseminate the learnt technologies and rice cultivation knowledge to the rice



Mr. Omalla (far right), Mr. Lubega (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), Mr. Mulongo and Mr. Cherotin (far left and 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with JICA training team at KATC

farmers in Bugiri District to increase rice production and productivity as well as empower economically within the communities.

Farmers in the West Nile region were grateful to JICA – PRiDe Project for introducing NERICA 4 to them which is an early maturing variety compared to what they were cultivating before.

NERICA 4 is tolerant of dry weather and might be the most widely adopted upland variety in Uganda.

During the graduation ceremonies in the two regions, the District Local Government Officials encouraged farmers to transfer the learnt rice cultivation techniques to other rice growing farmers in order to increase rice production and productivity efficiently in their regions. They were also advised to share quality rice seed with new rice farmers. AOs, PRiDe II and NaCRRI confirmed that there was high motivation and high adoption rate of the improved technologies among the MFS participants.



Farmers show off their certificates during the MFS graduation ceremony - Kole District

Fertilizer is quite costly to the small scale farmers yet it is important to achieve high yields. In order to handle this issue, during the graduation ceremony in Adjumani and Arua, farmers benefitted how to make organic fertilizer (compost manure). This will help them to restore soil fertility that was previously used to grow tobacco.

The farmers appreciated the compost manure training as it is an accessible method which substitutes for the inorganic fertilizer. The compost manure will be used in their gardens for the next rice cultivation season.

## PRiDe II registers new Rice Musomesa

With the end season 2022B in Lango and the West-Nile Regions a total of three hundred and forty (340) farmers have graduated the Musomesa Field School (MFS) after attending the season long rice cultivation trainings.

District/county	Sub	No. of Graduates	District	No. of graduates
<b>West Nile Region</b>			<b>Lango Region</b>	
Yumbe, Kululu		31	Amolatar	30
Obongi		23	Kole	30
Koboko		30	Agweng	30
Yumbe, Lodonga		23	Oyam	30
Maracha		29	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>120</b>
Adjumani, Oriji		24		
Madi Okollo		30		
Arua, Aja		30		
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>220</b>		
			<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>

## A JICA Staff Joined PRiDe II activities as an On the Job Training (OJT)

Ms. Rei Sakamoto, a JICA staff, joined PRiDe II activities including CARD Regional Training and an experiment using smoked coal made from rice husks to obtain necessary skills and knowledge for conducting her works practically in PRiDe II on 14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. She is in charge of training courses for capacity building of developing countries at JICA Tokyo. Through her past experiences in Japan, she advised the design and the proper ways of training operations including evaluation during the CARD Regional Training.

