

Postharvest Situation

Rice is produced mostly only for the local market. Market information does not reach farmers. The postharvest (PH) system in Myanmar is characterized by many delays in the manual postharvest operations that lead to losses and spoilage on farm, estimated with 15-40%. Field drying is commonly practiced, mechanical dryers were not available. Rice millers complain about low margins and low milling yields because of poor quality paddy. Farmers and most millers don't know the factors that affecting quality in production and postproduction.

Objectives

- Build capacity in postharvest at public and private sector for reduced postharvest losses.
- Improve farmers' incomes through better postharvest management and better marketing of their rice.
- Improve milling yields of rice mills.

Major Partnerships

- Plant Protection Division (PPD) of Myanmar Agricultural Services (MAS)
- Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association (MRPTA).

PPWG Sites

- Yangon Division
- Nat Ta Lin Township, West Bago Division
- Patheingyi, Ayeyarwaddy Division
- Additional MRPTA activities in West Bago, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and Southern Shan State.

Activities

- Three week PH training at IRRI (September 2005).
- Assessment of hermetic storage systems
 - For seeds at PPD (2005) and farmers seeds (2005).
 - For paddy, brown rice and milled rice with MRPTA (2005).
- Rice mill evaluation training for MRPTA (2005).
- Drying technology transfer from Vietnam including participation in drying training in Vietnam (2005-2007).
- Postharvest training (1 day e-learning, 2 days hands-on) for 23 participants from MAS and MRPTA (2006)
- Laser leveling training and demo in Nat Ta Lin, (2006)
- Market surveys in Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy and Mandalay (2005-2006).
- Assessment of postharvest losses in traditional and improved postharvest systems (2007).
- Two 3 day PH training (2008).
- Exchange visits to Thailand and Vietnam (2008).

Technologies

- Hermetic Storage Systems (Super bag and 5t cube).
- Flat bed dryer with 4t capacity (Vietnam design).
- Low cost dryer with 1t capacity (Vietnam design).
- Low cost moisture meter and quality kits.
- Plans for importing a mini combine from Vietnam.

For more information:

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Examples for Outcomes and Impact

Capacity building

In 2005 two participants from Myanmar underwent three weeks of intensive postharvest training at IRRI. This was followed by two in-country training courses on postharvest and grain quality. After returning from IRRI Dr. Myo Aung Kyaw from the MRPTA has implemented the Association's own postharvest training and extension program including:

- Translation of key training materials into Myanmar language. Various articles were published in local newspapers.
- Eight extension seminars for farmers
- Five short training courses on postharvest
- Presentations targeting decision makers
- Dryer demonstrations for farmers and millers



PH training at IRRI



In-country training



Training farmers by MRPTA

Drying technology transfer

In October 2005 IRRC had sent three participants from Myanmar to Vietnam to an IRRC organized dryer manufacturing training at Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City. They took back the latest designs for a 4t flat bed dryer with rice hull furnace and components that they had manufactured during the training. Until May 2008 MRPTA has installed 37 dryers at:

- MRPTA members.
- 6 dryers for farmers groups.
- 1 dryer for a farmer cooperative.
- 3 dryers for seed farms.
- More dryers are under development



Dryer at farmers group in West Bago Division

Facilitate private-public partnership

As a result of the PPWG activities the public and the private sector representatives have increasingly recognized that for reducing postharvest losses and increasing quality and incomes a combined effort of the public and private sector is needed. Indicators for this encouraging development are more consultations with the private sector in government meetings.

Plans until 2011

- Postharvest training for extension staff and for rice millers.
- Develop and implement capacity building strategy for PH.
- Further facilitate linkages between public and private sector.

Issues to be addressed beyond 2011

- Assist further transfer of technology from Vietnam:
 - Combine harvester and laser leveling demonstration and training.
 - Adapt dryers to users needs (capacity, furnace).
- Assist with grain quality assessment at rice mills.



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