

Postharvest Situation

Lao PDR has reached self-sufficiency and it envisions surplus and exports of rice in the near future. The local markets have many traditional aromatic varieties. On-farm PH losses are high and the paddy received by rice mills has low quality, which results in low milling yields. Lao PDR does not have standards for rice yet. All PH equipment are imported and PH capacity of institutions is extremely low. There is no value added and farmers store significant amounts of grain and seeds on farm, with high losses.

Objectives

- Improve farmer's income through better PH management to reduce losses and improve quality
- Assist the industry to improve paddy quality and milling efficiencies
- Assist government in identifying national standards, building capacity in PH, and facilitating technology transfer from neighboring countries.

Major partnerships

- National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), the national rice program
- Agricultural research stations: National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), Savannakhet, Luang Prabang
- Private sector: dryer manufacturers

PPWG Sites

- NARC and three villages nearby
- Savannakhet
- Luang Prabang
- Vientiane dryer workshop

Major activities

- Three-week PH training at IRRI (September 2005)
- Assessment of PH Situation (2005)
- Surveys of three rice markets (2005-06)
- Hermetic seed storage trials in three research centers (2005) and three villages (2006 and 2007)
- PH training (e-learning and hands-on) for 22 participants from public and private sector (July 2006)
- Transfer of drying technology from Vietnam including participation in dryer training in Vietnam (2005 - 07)
- Assessment of seed processing lines in Savannakhet and Champasak research stations (2006)
- Participation in combine training in Cambodia (2007)
- Assessment of rice mills for export-oriented production in a consultancy to ProRice project (2007)
- Provide laser leveling equipment (2007)
- Provision of rice quality kits and moisture meters
- Three 2- day PH training courses (2008)
- Laser leveling, combine harvester training courses in Savannakhet (2008)

Major technologies

- Hermetic storage systems
- Drying technology transfer using Vietnamese dryers
- Mini combine harvester (through training in Cambodia)
- Laser-assisted leveling

For more information:

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 Rice Knowledge Bank: www.knowledgebank.irri.org

Outcomes and Impact

Transfer of drying technology

In October 2005, IRRC sent one manufacturer, Outhay Thaimany, and an extension official to Vietnam to participate in an IRRC dryer manufacturing training at Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City. After returning to Laos, Mr. Thaimany started local production of Vietnamese-type dryers and started adapting them to local needs.



4-t dryer in Vientiane



Fans for low-cost dryer



Dryer training at NARC

Anticipated impact

- Reduced losses and increased incomes because of better quality
- One 4-t dryer can serve up to 80 farmers per season

Outcome as of September 2007

- One demo dryer with 4-t capacity at Vientiane
- One dryer with 1-t capacity installed in Savannakhet
- 30 low-cost dryers for demonstration in the provinces

Capacity building

In 2004, three participants from Laos participated in a 3-week postproduction training at IRRI, Philippines. This was followed up by a 2-day hands-on PH training at NARC, combined with 1 day of e-learning.



A farmer is advised about hermetic Super bag for seed storage

Major PH issues to be addressed

- Development and implementation of capacity- building strategy that addresses key PH stakeholders
- Expanding partnership with more PH stakeholders for better impact and facilitating more public-private partnerships for better delivery
- Piloting of PH technologies in cluster villages in Savannakhet
- Value chain integration of PH interventions (all stakeholders, including extension, financing, and marketing)



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