

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 manual PH operations that lead to losses and spoilage on the farms, estimated from 15 to 40%. Field drying is commonly practiced; mechanical dryers are not available. Rice millers complain about low margins and low milling yields because of poor quality paddy. Farmers and most millers do not know the factors that affect quality in production and postproduction.

Objectives

- Build capacity in PH at public and private sectors to reduce PH losses
- Improve farmers' incomes through better PH management and better marketing of their rice
- Improve milling yields of rice mills

Major partners

- 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 (2005-07)
- Postharvest training (1-day e-learning, 2-day 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 (2005-06)
- Assessment of PH losses in traditional and improved PH systems (2007)
- Two 3-day PH training (2008)
- Exchange visits to Thailand and Vietnam (2008).
- Two new major projects were initiated (2012-13)

Technologies

- Hermetic storage systems (Super bag and 5-t cube)
- Flat bed dryer with 4-t capacity (Vietnam design)
- Low-cost dryer with 1-t 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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Outcomes and impact

Capacity building

In 2005, two participants from Myanmar underwent 3 weeks of intensive PH training at IRRI. This was followed by two in-country training courses on PH and grain quality. After returning from IRRI, Dr. Myo Aung Kyaw from the MRPTA has implemented the association's own PH training and extension program:

- Translated key training materials into Myanmar. Various articles published in local newspapers
- Eight extension seminars for farmers conducted
- Two short training courses on postharvest conducted
- Postharvest initiatives promoted among decision makers
- Two dryer demonstrations for farmers and millers established



PH training at IRRI



In-country training



Training farmers by MRPTA

Transfer of drying technology

In October 2005, the IRRC 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 of a 4-t flat bed dryer with rice hull furnace and components that they had manufactured during the training. As of May 2008, MRPTA has installed 37 dryers for:

- MRPTA members,
- Farmers groups (6)
- Farmer cooperative (1)
- Seed farms (3)
- More dryers are being developed



Dryer at farmers group in West Bago Division

Facilitating private-public partnership

As a result of PPWG activities, public and private sector representatives have increasingly recognized that, to reduce PH losses and increase quality and incomes, combined efforts of both sectors are needed. Indicators for this encouraging development are more consultations with the private sector in government meetings.

Plans

- Postharvest training for extension staff and rice millers
- Further assistance on transfer of technology from Vietnam:
 - Mini combine harvester demonstration and training.
 - Adapt dryers to user needs (capacity, furnace)
- Assist with grain quality assessment in rice mills

Issues to be addressed

- Develop and implement capacity-building strategy for PH
- Further facilitate linkages between public and private sectors



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