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South-South and triangular cooperation

Republic of Korea's rice value chain project

Capacity development and experience sharing for rice value chains through South-South and triangular cooperation

Development challenge

Africa's total population, currently estimated at about 1.3 billion, is expected to grow to 1.5 billion by 2025, thereby increasing the rice demand. If the trend continues, Africa will have the second-highest per capita rice consumption in the world by 2025. While the forecast of milled rice consumption in Africa is set to reach 34.9 million tons by 2025, it is estimated that the African domestic production will be just up to 22.3 million tons and therefore it will not be able to cover the demand. The estimated gap of 12.6 million tons means that African countries will have to import rice at an average cost of USD 5.5 billion annually. On the other hand, local rice production, if enhanced, could save a significant portion of this cost, which could affect positively on the African countries' trajectory of development.

Rice is also the staple food of Asia and part of the Pacific region where rice consumption by 2025 is expected to increase by more than 51 percent compared to 1995. Although the Philippines has become one of the world's largest rice importers that imports about 2500 metric tons of rice in 2018, the country's insecurity of nutrition and policy incoherence with the rice production represents remaining challenges in the rice sector development. In order to meet this increased demand, enhancing local rice productivity is deemed necessary.

Through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC), the countries will be able to map their capacity needs and knowledge gaps and find sustainable, cost-effective, long-lasting, and economically viable solutions by building on the strengths and experiences of those countries who have progressed further in upscaling their rice productivity and nutrition security.

The project will contribute to the rice self-sufficiency to be achieved in target countries in the two regions (Côte d'Ivoire, United Republic of Tanzania, and the Philippines).

Development solution

Through the consolidated SSTC mechanism, FAO promotes the exchange of knowledge and good practices based on the concept of solidarity and willingness to share and learn from one another. As countries share and exchange development solutions, they are able to co-learn, co-innovate, co-develop, and mutually improve relevant and sustainable technologies. SSTC is at the core of the Agenda 2030 as a means for knowledge sharing and partnership building, towards the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2014 November, FAO has jointly implemented a phase I SSTC project with the Republic of Korea focusing on the development of rice value chains to facilitate the use of Republic of Korea expertise for knowledge sharing and capacity building. Lessons learnt from phase I showed the need for more efficient stakeholders' coordination, a stronger involvement of relevant local counterparts, and a more country-needs oriented training programme. It had also demonstrated the role that modern and profitable rice value chains play in alleviating malnutrition, improving farmer-market linkages, and increasing off-farm employment opportunities.

Key results

Building on the phase I experience, this phase II project will deliver the following:

- Adapt or develop need-based rice value chain training curriculum targeted countries needs.
- Train the country rice experts in selected areas of rice value chain.
- Facilitate learning and sharing of best practices on rice policies.

The project will act in synergy with relevant ongoing projects, initiatives, and partners (e.g. Coalition for African Rice Development Initiative, Framework on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for Africa, International Rice Research Institute, AfricaRice, etc.) in target countries to amplify the project impact. In order to ensure the sustainability of the intervention, the project will strengthen the national designated research and training institutions, will target key policy stakeholders, and will develop/promote solutions identified in consultation with key stakeholders through a need-based approach.

Key stakeholders

The ultimate stakeholders of the project are:

- Smallholder farmers, millers, traders, and regional experts.
- International training/research/extension institutions related to the rice value chain.
- Ministries of Agriculture as well as lead Project Agencies/National authorities responsible for the rice value chain.

Solution exchange

Considering the similarities that target countries are facing and capitalizing on the cutting-edge technological solutions from Republic of Korea, the project will identify technology gaps and will promote need-based solutions and practices sharing in the areas of rice policies and rice value chain.



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