DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Plant Sciences Programme
Manager: Centre for Arid Zone Studies
University of Wales, Bangor

Please note that this project is ongoing and a final technical report will not be available until April 2006. Below are further details of the project and contact details should you require further information.

To be completed by CAZS:DFID project number

R8221

1. Project title
Promotion of rainfed rabi cropping in rice fallows of eastern India and Nepal: phase 2.

2. Abbreviated title
Rainfed rabi cropping: phase 2.

3. Is the research strategic / adaptive? (delete as appropriate)

4. Project summary
This proposal is the planned extension of previous DFID/PSP-funded research (R8098). That project identified constraints and opportunities for growing crops without irrigation in the rabi (post-rainy season) in the vast areas of rice fallows (land left fallow after the harvest of kharif rice) in eastern India and the Nepal terai. Questionnaires, surveys and feedback from farmers after preliminary on-farm trials confirmed that a combination of short-duration crops, early sowing, minimal tillage and seed priming was effective in enabling farmers to grow a rainfed rabi crop. This project addresses the constraints identified earlier and scales up the preliminary research outputs of the previous study in villages in Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkand, Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh states (India) and Dhanusa, Jhapa, Kapilvastu, Morang, Saptari and Siraha districts (Nepal).

5. Keywords
Rainfed rabi cropping, rice fallows, India, Nepal, legumes, minimum tillage, seed priming, community seed supply

6. RNRRS Production System
Semi-arid
7. Project goal
Benefits for poor people generated by application of new knowledge on selection and genetic enhancement of cultivars, and improved agronomic practices, to crop production in Semi-Arid Production Systems.

8. Geographic Focus
India, Nepal

9. Commodity Base
Short-duration crops (e.g., chickpea, lentil, barley, mustard)

10. Applicant's full name(s), title(s), post(s) held, and departments(s)
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13a. Project Location  
India (Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkand)  
Nepal (Dhanusa, Jhapa, Kapilvastu, Morang, Saptiari and Siraha).  

14. Starting and finishing dates  
1st July 2002 to 28th February 2006  

15. Is this proposal a continuation or extension of work already funded by the DFID? If so, please state project reference No. and title.  

This work uses outputs from projects R7540 ‘Promotion of chickpea following rainfed rice in the Barind area of Bangladesh’, R7541 ‘Assessing the potential for short duration legumes in South Asian rice fallows’ and R8098 ‘Promotion of rainfed rabi cropping in rice fallows of India and Nepal: pilot phase’.  

In addition, PSP will support the rapid generation of material from a cross between a local chickpea variety (probably ST4 from Jharkhand or Bhawanipatna from Orissa) with a short-duration parent from the ICRISAT breeding programme. The progeny would be available for use in a PPB programme if other suitable varieties were not available for testing.